The Fraktur

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PLAYING CARDS

"The Devil is in the cards," is an old expression. Also found in playing cards is a parallel history with paper money, going back to the first paper money in China, said to have been used during the Tang Dynasty that ended in 907 A.D.

As paper and related graphic arts developed, so too did the playing cards. Lost in the dim past that no one today can dispute are claims of countries which aver the origin of cards: Egypt, Arabia, India, Korea and China. The latter had cards called "money cards."

Earliest use of the cards seems to have been for divination, the tarot (German: Tarok) card, as much as for amusement. Neither Chaucer nor Dante referred to playing cards, an indication that they surfaced later in Europe.

As the use of playing cards evolved in Europe, the decks contained 32, 36, 40, 52, 56 and 78 cards. Earliest cards in Europe were hand painted, later printed by wood cuts.

In the French portion of Canada in 1685, there was insufficient money to pay the occupying soldiers. A system was devised using playing cards, giving them denominations of 15 and 40 soles and four Francs.

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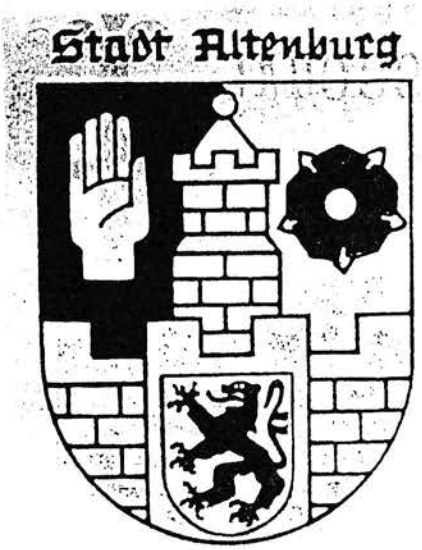
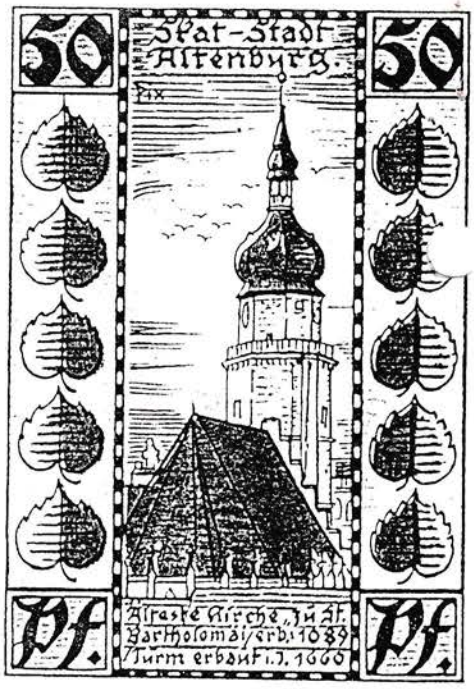


Arms of Altenburg, left, include a hand, rose and rampant lion. Right, St. Bartholomai chuch was built in 1089; the tower in 1660, on a 50-Pfennig Skat card of Altenburg, L-21b



The practice spread within the Canadian French colony, until by 1759 cards with money value of 14 million Livres had been issued. Other places where playing cards had monetary use included in France during their revolution; also in Surinam and Madeira.

In the central German town of Altenburg, 30 miles south of Leipzig, the game of Skat (widow) was developed in 1811. A local resident brought to the town the Wendish game of sheepshed, called in German Schafkopf, which dated from the mid-1700s. It was modified to the Skat version in Altenburg.

First spelled "Scat," played with 32 cards, the name came from the Italian "scartare," to discard. F. F. Hempel, an advocate in Altenburg, helped popularize the game, principally through Tarok clubs. Codified rules appeared in 1848; more than 1,000 Skat players gathered in Altenburg on Aug. 7, 1886, to refine the rules.

A fountain was erected near the Altenburg castle in 1903 in memory of the founding of the card game, showing three players, in bronze, at the top of the fountain.

Skat rules in the United States vary from the German version. When we were living in Germany, we were told "If you enter a Gasthaus and see three persons playing cards, they are playing Skat."

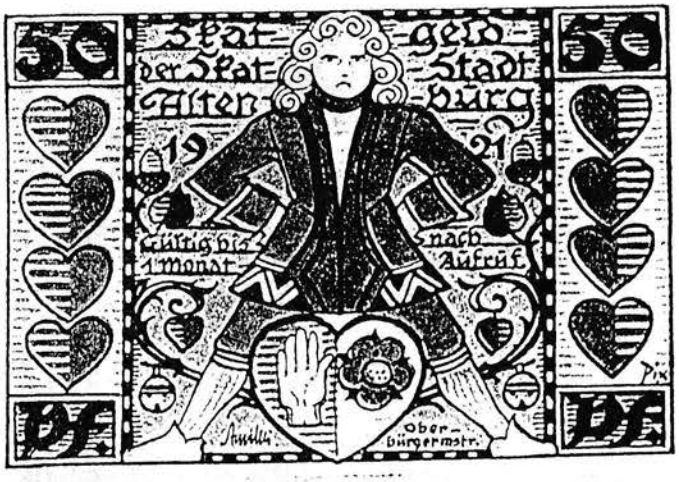
The Skat series of notes of Altenburg, L-21b and a Farmer series, L-21c, were printed by the Altenburger Spielkartenfabrik (playing card factory) Schneider & Co.

Beginning in 1839 was one of the largest religious immigration waves in the history of the State of Missouri as the Perry County towns of Altenburg, Frohna, Uniontown and Wittenberg on the Mississippi River were settled. The Saxon Luthern settlements were a nucleus of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Concordia Seminary was founded in Altenburg Dec. 9, 1838, with 11 students, then moved to St. Louis, Mo. The Perry County Lutheran Historical Society in Altenburg welcomes inquiries and visitors.

Perry County is across the river from Carbondale, Ill.





The twin red spires of the Augustiner Cloister date from 1172, in the time of Friedrich Barbarossa, at left. At right the Altenburg Buergermeister stands guard over his domain. L-21b

Change squirreled away and used by Skat players has been cited as one of the reasons for change shortage during World War I, and helping bring the onset of Notgeld.

Near Lopischewo (Lopiszewo) Posen, on Aug. 8, 1914, undated playing cards were issued in sets as follows: Herz (Hearts), Karo (Diamonds), Pik (Spades) and Kreuz (Clubs).

Denominations and total issue Mark values included: 50 Pfennig, brown backs, 100 Mark (81); 1 Mark, red, 336 (327); 3 Mark, blue, 492 (492); and 5 Mark, green, 500 (495), for a total of 1,428 Mark. Total of 1,395 Mark (figures in parentheses) was redeemed. (Keller 206)

From Bretleben, Provinz Sachsen, Carl Zuchold issued playing card money in 1918 in values of 20 and 40-Pfennig. P-S 326

Also, in 1918, in Russia, playing cards in values of 50-Kopecks, 1, 3 and 5-Rubles were issued by a Konsumgenossenschaft of Chabarowsk.

In 1919, R. Floeting of Marienwerder issued undated cards in values of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20-Pfennig. P-S 1337

Issue-dated April 6, 1920, were playing cards with Notgeld values of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 80 and 90-Heller issued by Steyregg, Upper Austria, printed in four colors. Meyerbeck O-426

Later editions of the Steyregg playing card Notgeld pieces were issued in the Austian town of Reichental/ Muehlkreis in eight varieties each of values of 10, 20, 30 and 50-Heller.

A set of six 50-Pfennig notes from Altenburg, Germany, dated 1921 offers view of the city, printed on both rough paper and smooth paper. Each variety is known to come in the paper envelopes called Tasch. These were not playing cards, but Notgeld in playing card style.

The views include the oldest church, three Skat players on top of a fountain, city hall, Nikolai tower, red spitzen (twin spires of a church) and two marking the cradle of the card game. L-21





The Skat players fountain is viewed twice on Altenburg Notgeld; above, a 20-Millionen Mark, October 1923, shows the fountain; at right, the players on the top.
Keller 55e L-21b

The entire Skat fountain appears on the face of a 20 Millionen Mark note of Altenbdurg, Otober 1923. K-55e

An even more ambitious set was issued by Gustav Habeck in Stralsund, Pomerania, in both German and French playing card styles. Denominations of each style are five, 10, 25 and 50-Pfennig, with many color variations. Manfred Mehl calls the pieces "Schwindeleausgabe - Swindle issue).

The most recent playing card Notgeld we could locate is dated 1947, when A. Schulze of Leipzig issued 1, 5, and 10-Pfennig values.

As early as 1830 in England, the bank note printing firm of Waterlow & and Sons made playing cards as well as paper money. The firm has merged into the present-day Thomas De La Rue firm, maker of paper money of the United Kingdom.

And now for the most recent combination of playing cards and numismatics. The fasmous Red Books, Blue Books and Brown books of Western Publishing Co., Racine, Wis., and other hobby specialities, are publishing companions within the firm of their playing cards.

REFERENCES

Lindman, Kai "Serienscheine"

Mehl, Manfred, "Das Papiernoteld von Mecklenburg und Vorpommern 1914-1923" Berlin 1972

Pick-Siemsen "Circulating Notes."

Topical listings of Notgeld are continually upgraded by specialist Dwight L. Musser, P.O. Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537.

His most recent listing is of Schecks, items issued by cities after regular Notgeld was forbidden by the government. But they did not forbid issuance of Schecks, did they? So they were issued, perhaps in five denominations. To add to their volume, various Kontos were issued: without a Konto (account) number or letter, then A, B, C, on into the night.

Small fees are requested for some of the Musser lists.

* * *

A pricelist of metal emergency money has been released by Lux-Numis, 41 avenue de la Gare, Galerie Mercure, L-1611 Luxembourg, Luxembourg.

Items offered include transportation tokens, private and municipal German tokens as well as prisoner of war issues, city issues of France and colonial pieces, as well.

* * *

We are waiting for readers to digest the recently released "German Poland Notgeld Names" volume sent recently. An addendum will be issued as part of THE FRAKTUR.

A reader from Bonn, Germany, comments "Recently there was an article in THE FRAKTUR about places around Bad Kudowa (June 1996). I am from this area, over the border, on the Czech side, but all these place names did not tell me anything, because I did not know them. Your book makes it easier to understand. I feel it is a tremendous work of yours to put all this information together."

Illinois reader Otto Huch is responsible for a clipping that proved the inspiration for the playing card topic in this issue. Keep those cards and letters coming!

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.

* * *

For sale or trade: German Porcelain

Scheuch numbers: 188N, $75; 221D, $115; 221N, $28; 384N, $115; 488A $100; 488K, $130; 836N, $45; 1953D, $65; 1953N, $20; 1953Q, $35. Inquiries to Walt Reiblein, P.O. Box 1525, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003

317d Brieg 25 0,15
321d Broacker 1 ℳ 0.40
e 1 ℳ 0,20
323 Brockau 25, 50 0,25
329 Brunde-Rothenkrug 1 ℳ 0,20
338 Büren 50 0,80
345f Bunzlau 10, 50 0,15
g 1 einzeln 0,10
5 × 1 0,40
350b Burghausen 50 0,80
355e Buxtehude 25, 50 Orig. 0,80
f 25, 50 Orig. 0,80
g 25 0,10
358 Calbe a. M. Schützenhaus 25, 50 0,80
359b desgl. Verkehrsverein 10 * 0.30
d 5,50 * 0,40
364b Camburg 10, 50 mit Wz. 0,50
c 10, 50 0,15
365b desgl. Tagblatt 25 0,10
367 Camp 25, 50 0,10
375c Cassel 1 7,—
378 Caub 10 0,15
379a Celle 10 * 0,30
380 desgl. Trüller 0,25, ½ ℳ 0,30
386b Chemnitz Tietz 1 Nr. 28, 99 je 0.10
d desgl. 2 Nr. 61 0,10
e desgl. 5 Nr. 52 0,10
387b Chemnitz Uhlmann 1, 5 0,15
391 Christburg, Wpr. Cred. Ver. 10, 50 * 20,—
399a Cleve 50 0,80
401d Coblenz 50 0,40
e 10, 25 0,30
f 25, 3 × 50 0,40
402 desgl. Rheinstrombauverw. 2 rot 4,—
406e Coburg 50 0,40
408a Coesfeld 25, 50 3,—
cI 25, 50 mit Wz. 0,50
cII 25, 50 ohne Wz. 0.50
412b Cosel 50, 75, 1 ℳ 0,50
413f desgl. Vorschußver. 50 Wz. dkle Kreuze 0,40
414e Cottbus 10, 20, 50 0,70
f 10 0,10
421a Crefeld 50 * 0,20
b 50 * 0,25
c 50 * 0,10
d 50 0.50
e 25 0,50
f 25, 50 0,25
g 25, 50 0,15
422e Creußen 10, 25 1,60
f 50 0,40
426d Cüstrin 50 0,15
429a Cuxhaven 25, 50 0,70
b 25, 50 0,15
435 Daber 10 0,10
436a Dahlenburg 10, 25, 50 0,25
437 Dahme 25, 50 0,15
438 Daler 25, 50 0,40
439 Dannefeld Gadau 10, 50 0,25

440d Dannenberg 5, 10, 50 0,30
e 5, 10, 50 0,30
441e Danzig 50 0,40
444a Darmstadt 50 * 0,40
b 50 Orig. 3,—
c 50 Orig. 0,25
446a Dassow 10, 25, 50 0,15
448 Daun 25, 50 0,40
449b Deggendorf 25, 50 0,40
d 25, 50 0,40
452a Delbrück 25, 50 0,25
b 1 ℳ 0,10
453g Delitzsch 50 Wz. Tropfen 0,40
k 5, 10 0,50
455g Demmin 25, 50 0,25
457a desgl. Edeka 1. 2 0,15
b 1 0,10
459b Derenburg 10, 25, 50 0,25
462b Dessau Ueberlandzentrale Anhalt 1 0,15
464a Detmold 10, 25 0,30
c 50 0,15
d, e 50 je 0,20
468 Deutsch Rumbach Lamotte 5, 10 0,80
469b Diepholz 10, 25, 50 0,15
469IIa desgl. Kreis 10, 25, 50 0,50
472e Diez 10. 25, 50 0,50
f 10, 25, 50 0,40
g 10, 50 0,25
475b Dingolfing 50 0,80
476 Dinkelsbühl 50 KZ 3, 5 mm * 0,80
50 KZ 4 mm * 0,40
480b Dippoldiswalde Amtsh. 10, 50 0,25
c 10, 25, 50 0,30
485b Döbeln 50 0.40
desgl. leicht gebr. 0,25
492a Donauwörth 50 0,40
b 50 0,40
495 Dornburg 10, 2×25, 4×50 0,60
497b Dortmund und Hörde 50 0,40
c 10, 25 0,25
500a Dramburg 10,50 * 1,80
b 10, 50 0,60
c 10, 50 * 0,40
501b desgl. Kreis 50 0,20
503b Dresden 50 0,60
c 50 0,15
d 50 0,15
507 desgl. Herrmann 1, 2, 3 0,20
511 desgl. Kons. Ver. Vorwärts 1, 2 1,60
517c Dresden-Neustadt 25 0,15
519a Düben 5, 10, 50 0,55
522 Dünth 50 mit KZ 0,40
523 Düppel 25 Oere Papier weiß 0,40
desgl. 50 Oere Papier weiß 2,—
524c Düren 25 0,40
i 10 0,25
526e Düsseldorf 25 A, B je 0,15
50 0,40

In THE FRAKTUR, May 1996, page 6, we showed a page from a September 1925 pricelist of Dr. Arnold Keller, Berlin. Another page is shown above. Prices asked are in German Mark values, about 24 cents in U.S. funds.

Aachen Oct. 31, 1918 25, 50 Pf P-S 1 $2
Aachen July 1, 1923 100,000 Mark K-1a $3
Aachen July 20, 1923 100,000 Mark K-1b $3
Aachen July 20, 1923 200,000 Mark K-1b $2.75
Aachen July 20, 1923 1 Millionen Mark K-1b $4.50
Aachen July 20, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-1b brown back $2
Aachen July 20, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-1b orange back $3
Aachen July 20, 1923 10 Millionen Mark K-1b $2.75
Aachen July 20, 1923 50 Millionen Mark K-1b $3.50
Aachen July 20, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K-1b $3.50
Aachen Aug. 15, 1923 2 Millionen Mark Handelskammer $6.50
Aachen Aug. 18, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K-1b $3.25
Achim Jan. 15, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-2 $2.50*
Ahaus ND 25, 50 Pf pipe smoker L-3 $1.35*
Ahlen/Westfalen Oct. 10, 1918 5, 10 Mark K-6 $6
Ahrensboek Dec. 1920 25, 50, 100 Pf L-6 $2*
Ahrweiler Aug. 5, 1918 25 Pf P-S 4 $.65
Ahrweiler Aug. 15, 1921 L-7a $1
Aken/Elbe Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50 (4), 75 Pf L-8 II $5*
Albersdorf, Bad Jan. 1, 1922 50 Pf L-9 $1.75*
Alfeld/Leine July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-11 $1.25*
Allenstein/Ostpreussen April 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf Ser A $1.40*
Allenstein/Ostpreussen April 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf Ser B $1.40*
Allstedt Feb. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 12a Wildman $1.25*
Altenau/Harz May 1, 1921 75 (6) Pf L-17 $4*
Altenburg Nov. 15, 1918 10, 20 Mark K-11 Punch cancelled $5
Altenburg 1921 50 (8) Pf L-21a Robbers $7.50*
Altenburg 1921 50 (7) Pf L-21b Skat $5*
Altenburg 1921 (6) Pf L-21c Baueern $10*
Altenburg August 1923 100,000 Mark K-55b fold $3
Alton Nov. 2, 1918 5, 20 Mark K-12d $3*
Altenkirchen 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-23 $4.50*
Altenkirchen-Waldbdroel 1920 10, 25 Pf P-S 17 $1
Altenwerder u. Finkenwerder Nov. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-24 $8*
Altgaarz ND 10, 25, 50 Pf Reutergeld L-26 $2.25*
Altheide/Breslau ND 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-27 $15
Altona Nov. 2, 1918 50 Pf P-S 20 $1.25*
Altona Nov. 2, 1918 5, 10, 20 Mark K-12d $7.50
Altona Dec. 12, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-29a $4*
Altona Dec. 12, 1921 20. 30, 40, 60, 70, 80 Pf L-29b $4*
Altusried ND 10 Pf P-S 27 $.75
Alzey Feb. 1, 1921 50 Pf P-S 30 $.65
Amberg Oct. 25, 1923 20 Milliarden Mark K-88i $3.50
Andernach April 1, 1920 25, 50, 75 Pf L-31 $1.75
Anderach Aug. 1, 1923 1 Million Mark K-97a $7.50
Angerburg/Ostpreussen 1921 50 Pf L-32 $1.25
Annaberg Nov. 1, 1918 5, 20 Mark; DSec. 1, 1918, 10 Mark K-17a $9
Annaberg/Sachsen ND (1920) 5, 10, 50 Pf P-S 45d $2
Annaburg August 1921 25, 50 Pf L-33 $1.25
Annen/Westfalen Aug. 16, 1923 1 Millionen Mark K-112 $3.25
Ansbach Aug. 12, 1921 25 (7), 75 (6) Pf L-34 $9*
Apolda Nov. 15, 1918 5, 10 Mark Punch cancelled K-19 $6
Apolda Aug. 1, 1921 10 (2), 25 (6) Pf L-35 $5.25*
Appen ND 25, 50, 75 Pf L-38 $7.25*
Arendsee ND 10 Pf Reutergeld L-40 $.75*
Arnsberg March 1, 1920 25 Pf P-S 53 $.75
Arnsberg Dec. 15, 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-41a $7.50
Arnstadt 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 54c $1.25
Arnstadt 1921 10 (6), 25 (6), 50 (6) Pf L-42 $10*

Arnswalde May 2, 1921 50 Pf P-S 57h $.65*
Arnswalde Aug. 10, 1923 500,000, 1,000,000 Mark K-141 $8
Artern/Thuer. Sylvester 1921 50 (4) Pf L-45c $2.50*
Aryes/Ostpreussen Feb. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-46 $5*
Aschaffenburg ND (1918) 5, 10, 20 Mark K-20 $12.50
Aschaffenburg ND 50 Pf P-S 60a $1.50*
Aschaffenburg ND 50 Pf P-S 60e $1.25*
Aschaffenburg 1920 25 Pf H. Schiestl P-S 60g $1.25*
Aschersleben Dec. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 Pf L-48b $4*
Aschersleben Dec. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-48c $3*
Attendorn/W ND 1, 2, 3 Mark L-49 Schecks $5*
Aue ND 50 Pf P-S 69 $1.25*
Auerbach July 1, 1921 50 (3), 75 (3) Pf L-51 $4*
Auerbach Aug. 18, 1923 1, 2 Millionen Mark K-190 $6
Augsburg Jan. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 73e $2
Augsburg Octy. 15, 1918 5 Mark K-23 $3.25
Augustenburg, Denmark April 8, 1920 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-52a $1.50*
Augustenburg, Denmark Oct. 15, 1921 50 Ore L-52b $1.75
Auma Oct. 1, 1919 10 Pf P-S 98c $2.50*
Auma July 1, 1920 5, 10 Pf L-98d $2.50*
Auma April 1, 1921 25 Pf Mushrooms L-51 $.65*
Auma Nov. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-53c $4*
Aurich/Hannover Sept. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 99 $2
Aurich/Hannover ND 50 Pf L-51 $.65*

METAL NOTGELD

Bergzabern 1917 5, 10, 50 Pf Zinc round M-832 $5
Blankenstein ND 5, 10, 50 Pf Zinc round M-1599 $40
Blexen 1918 50 Pf Zin round M-1615 $30
Burghausen/s 1918 5 Pf Iron round M-2236 $4
Crailsheim 1917 5, 10, 50 Pf Zinc octagon $40
Deggendorf 1917 10, 50 Pf Zinc round M-2775 $4
Dinslaken 1919 10 Pf Zinc octagon M-2904 $3.50
Ehingen 1918 10 Pf Zinc round $3.50
Frankenthal 1919 10 Pf Iron round M-4158 $2
Frankenthal 1919 5 Pf square, 10, 50 Pf round Zinc M-4158 $30
Frankenthal 1918 5, 10, 50 Pf Iron octagon Zuckerfabrik $35
Frankenthal 1918 5, 10, 50 Iron round M-4157 $20
Feucht 1917 5, 10, 50 Pf Zinc rund M-4043 $110
Freudenstasdt 1918 10 Pf Iron square M-4452 $40
Freyung ND 10, 20 Pf Iron octagon $12.50
Fulda 1918 1, 2 Pf Iron round M-4630 $20
Furth/Wald ND 50 f Zinc round M-4636 $9
Geiselhoering ND 5, 10, 20, 50 Pf Zinc round M-4703 $175
Gengenbach 1918 50 Pf Iron round M-4755 $15
Gerolzhofen 1917 5, 10, 50 Pf Zinc round $50
Gruenhain ND 10 Pf black 50 Pf brown plastic $100
Poland 1916-J Oberbefehlshabers Ost 3 Kopecks Iron KM-23 $10

**Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman Serienscheine; P-S Pick-Siemsen
M-Peter Menzel, "Deutsche Notsmuenzen und sonstige Geldersatzmarken 1840-1990" Guetersloh, Germany 1993"

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

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