The Fraktur

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March 2000

THE THIRTY YEAR WAR

In our January issue, we reviewed the first phase of the Thirty Years War, as divided by Norman Davies, author of *Europe*, published in 1996. He defined the years 1618-1623, as the Bohemian phase, which ended with the combined forces of Austria, Bavaria and Spain victors of the first phase of the war..

The Danish phase was 1625-1629, which ended with the Peace of Luebeck..

This month we review the Swedish phase, 1628-1635, ending with the Peace of Prague..

On the fourth of July, 1630, Swedish king Gustvaus Adolphus landed at Usedom after crossing the Baltic Sea, now the "Swedish Lake." As he left the gangway, he slipped and slightly injured his knee. Immediately his spin doctors let it be known that the king had fallen to his knees and prostrated himself before God while asking a blessing on his cause.

Now 36, tall, blond with a pointed beard, the "Lion of the North" was in every way a king and a soldier. The Swedish victory over Tilly at Breitenfeld occurred on Sept. 17, 1631, four milels north of Leipzig. At one time Wallenstein considered joining the Swedes, but demands of Wallenstein could not be met either by the Swedes nor Ferdinand. Wallenstein went home and dismissed his troops.

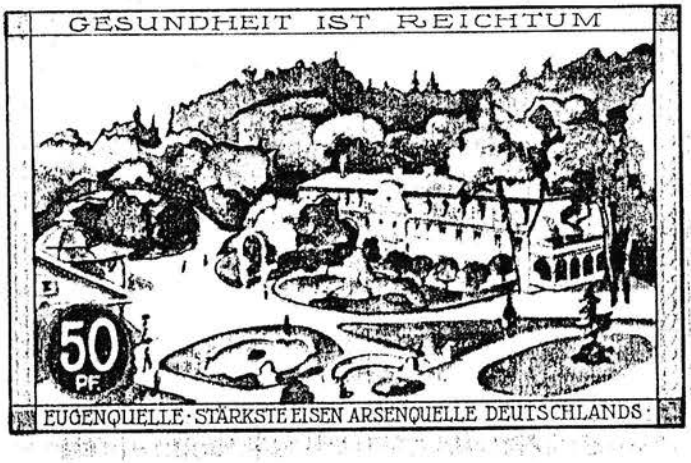
The German style of battle was a chessman-like formation, horses with soldiers alternating in adjoining squares. Facing them were the Swedish troops, in files five men deep, deeply trained in a firing pattern taught by the king. Men on the front row knelt, firing simultaneously with the man standing behind him.

After firing, these two moved to the rear, front man knelt, the two fired. As the men who fired moved to the rear, they reloaded, ready to fire as their turn came. This onslaught kept up for seven hours, as three times more the fire was directed toward Tilly's troops than the Swedes received.

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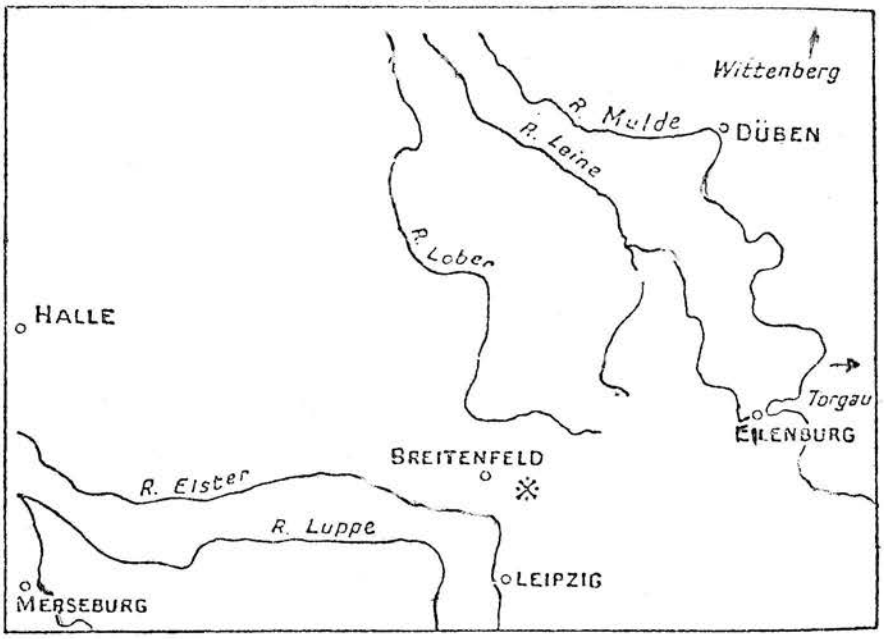
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When the Swedes came to Eilenburg, they meant business - with drawn pikes, at left; at right, the legend says "Die Schweden kommen" -- and the kids and civilians went. There are six undated 50- Pfennig notes, L-303. Tilly's troops were all over part of the German map, including Merseburg, Leipzig, Breitenfeld , Eilenburg and Dueben, all Notgeld-issuing places.

In *The Thirty Years War,* Cicely Veronica Wedgewood describes the carnage against the Saxon troops. "The Croatian cavalry led the charge, their red cloaks streaming in the wind, their sabres flashing, while such outlandish cries issued from their mouths that the Saxons imagined nothing less than that these were the devil's minions hot from hell.

"John George, himself, brave enough in the hunting field, had never imagined such fury as was now bearing down upon him. The gunners fled first, and the cannon were seized. Sweating and straining in the stifling dust, the imperialists dragged them round to face the Saxon cavalry and opened fire. Until that moment (Hans Georg von) Arnim might yet have rallied his wavering troops, but the new disaster overpowered them. John George himself spurred his horse out of the battle without more ado, and never drew rein until he reached Eilenburg, 15 miles away."

In taking count of Tilly's losses, there were 12,000 dead, 7,000 prisoners and 20 cannon (his total artillery.)

Wedgewood added that the Fatherland never again feared conquest by Austria. For over 100 years, Sept. 17 was celebrated as a day of thanksgiving in Dresden. But the battle which saved them from Austria gave them to the Swedes. And Wedgewood suggested that the Battle of

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The daughter of the Weinkellermeister carries a flagon of wine, at right; at left, is shown Buergemeister Bezold, who met the troops of General Tilly in Rothenburg. These notes are are from a set of six 50-Pfennig notes, June 24, 1921. L-1112-b.

Breitenfeld was historic not for what it achieved but for what the Germans thought that it had achieved.

It was in the third period of the war that General Tilly encountered Rotenburg ob der Tauber. The massive walls of the city and the fierce resistance put up infuriated Tilly. In 1631 the city fell and Tilly ordered its immediate destruction, plus execution of four city council members.

While waiting for the executions to be carried out, a container of wine was brought to Tilly by the daughter of the owner of the local wine Stube. Following a few quafs, Tilly mellowed, called off the executions, and offered to save the town if any citizen could empty the seven-liter goblet in one swallow. Like a fish story, it gets better with its telling.

A one-time mayor, Herr Nusch, stepped forward and, according to legend, emptied the goblet and fell down dead. The town was saved and even today, there is an annual celebration, Der Meistertrunk, or Master Drink Day. A play reenacts the event in the Rathaus each Whitmonday.

Today, lurking in your collections, are the *Dramatis Personae* of this awesome tale, first on a 50-Pfennig note of Rotenburg, Oct. 1, 1918, is depicted a helmeted soldier with his blunderbuss, seated on a parapet, and also, eight 50-Pfennig notes, L-1112, dated June 24, 1921. Two examples are dedicated to General Tilly, seen holding his wine flagon. Then on other notes there are the fortunate Buergermeister, Bezold (or Heinrich Toppler); former Buergermeister Nusch; Schar, one of the defenders of the city; Magdalene; and finally, the daughter of the Weinkellermeister, who brought the wine to Tilly in the first place. (The names of these personalities seem to change, depending upon who is doing the telling).

And the city was saved!

But the story does not end here. In April 1945, U.S. Army troops under Major General Jacob L. Devers had trapped SS German troops and their general inside the city. They refused to surrender.

Devers ordered artillery fire to bring the walls tumbling down.

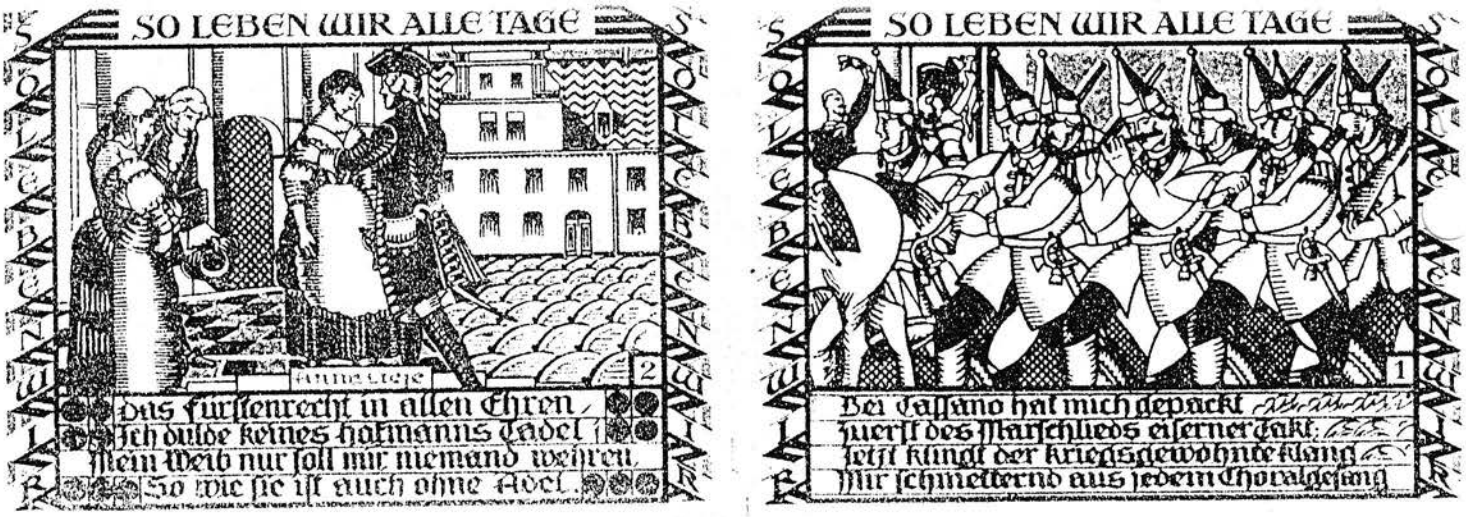
But wait!

John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War, was visiting the front, and asked Devers to hold his fire. It seems that McCloy's mother had often visited in Rotenburg and pictures of the town had decorated the room of young McCloy.

A truce was negotiated, the town was saved and McCloy was named an honorary citizen and "Protector of Rotenburg."

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Folks in Dessau got to know the Swedish troops well. From a six-note set dated 1921, L-257, we note a budding romance, at left, between the officer and serving girl; at right, the fifer keeps the troops in step.

By April 16, 1632, Ferdinand caved in to the exorbitant demands of Wallenstein and fighting against the Swedes was renewed. From July to September August 1632 the Swedes were gradually pushed northward from Bavaria.

Gustavus Adolphus died on Nov. 16, 1632, at the Battle of Lluetzen. On Feb. 25, 1633, Wallenstein was murdered by Captain Devereux at Eger. On Sept. 6, 1634, Austrian and Spanish forces, representing the Catholics, with some 32,000 men, descended upon Protestant forces at Noerdlingen, some 20,000 troops. The battle was over by midday.

Autumn 1634 can sound like a travelogue for the Catholic forces: Goepingen, Sept. 15; Heilbronn, the 16th; Weiblingen, the 18th; and on the 20th the King of Hungary entered Stuttgart..

The Peace of Prague on May 30, 1635, ended the third phase of the war.

Wedgewood continues, "But the appearance of France as the ally of Sweden on the leflt bank of the Rhine, followed by the declaration of war by France on Spain, altered the situation. "Those who subscribed to the Peace found that they had not merely to drive Swedish armies out of Germany but the French also. And if they closed in conflict with France, they must make common cause with the King of Spain.

"The Peace of Prague was metamorphosed into an alliance for war, and those who signed it bound themselves to fight the battle of the House of Austria."

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At left, a 25-Pfennig note of Hessische Oldendorf, Oct. 1, 1921, recalls the battle from June 26, to July 8, 1633. At right, two Swedes pause in the town square of Neustadt/Orla, Sept. 1, 1921, L-938b.

sabres flashing, while such outlandish cries issued from their mouths that the Saxons imagined nothing less than that these were the devil's minions hot from hell

Numismatists will appreciate a tale in debasement of the coin of the realm.

In 1621, Karl von Liechtenstein, a lieutenant of Ferdinand, presided over a 25 percent debasement of the silver coinage.On Jan. 18, 1622, 15 prominent subjects of Ferdinand signed a covenant to lease all the Mints in Bohemia, Moravia and Lower Austria, and to control their coinage for one year.

In the ensuing year, 344 million thalers flooded the area, debased by 90 percent, soon to become worthless outside of Habsburg controlled lands. In 1618, a Bohemian thaler traded for 90 Boheiman kreuzer; in 1623, it brought 675 kreuzer. In addition, land owned by 600 nobles was confiscated, and the economy completely failed.



Waldenstein and the Swedes at the unsuccessful siege of Stralsund, June 6, 1628, 100 Mark, Nov. 6, 1922, Mueller 4480. In 1923 the 100 Mark note was overprinted to 1 Millionen Mark.

Thank you for your article, request, pleas, if you will, in the December 1999 issue of THE FRAKTUR, lamenting the plight of the "Notgelder" today.

I may or may not be a typical "Notgeld Orphan" -- mid-50s, WASP, middle class, well educated, of German-French extraction, who started collecting minor U.S. coins (until it got expensive for a teenager), moved on to the wonderful world of exciting "world coins," and settled on several countries to collect, including Great Britain, Canada and of course, Germany.

When German coins became "so hot an item" over a dozen years ago, I decided to try metal Notgeld.

It was such a great time period, 'junk' boxes at every show had something new and very intriguing. The U.S. collectors seemed to know much about these treasures; you were on your own and feeling your way around in the dark., You bounced from pillar to post, occasionally bumping into the older collector who knew what they were and had a BOOK!

Then you found Lamb, Upton, Frenzel and THE FRAKTUR, just when you thought you had something, WHAM.

Now, everyone seems to want a small fortune for your hobby, which is now not just a hobby for you, but a near obsession.

I still 'wander' the small shows in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Texas, and still get that puzzled look when I ask the numerous US dealers "Do you have German Notgeld...metal?"

I, too, have turned to many avenues to not only find coins; but information...thus THE FRAKTUR, a wonderful vessel of knowledge, but, alas "paper" not metal..

Thanks for a wonderful newsletter and the knowledge that it gives to the reader/collector.

Ron Roblyer
Oklahoma

When the third edition of Kai Lindman's *Serienscheine* arrives this spring, we are certain it will contain many new variations of notes found. For instance, the printing firm's name at the bottom of the back of the note may be 32 millimeters in length, or 43.
Our glass loupes may measure 10 mm. What is the solution?

Go to your friendly opticians. They measure frames for glasses in millimeters. Rulers are given to them by salesmen of frames, so somewhere in the back they have a stack of them. Say please and see if it works.

Also, printing firms have 18 inch aluminum rulers, with inches and millimeters measured on one side, picas and points on the other, but they must be more expensive than a free ruler from the optican.

We do not print names of our readers, or sell them. But Mr. Robert Neumark, 123 Starboard Tack Drive, Salem, S.C. 29676, has given permission for us to use his address. He would like to correspond with collectors of Austrian Notgeld.

* * *

Jack Van Dyke, 10616 Ridge Drive, Chicago Ridge, Ill. 60415 continues to operate The Notgeld Club. Members learn of interests of others, trade Notgeld.

Kappeln July 6, 1920 50 Pf L-659A II Mehl 677 $1.50*
Kappeln July 6, 1920 50 Pf L-659B II Mehl 677 $3*
Kappeln July 6, 1920 50 Pf L-659A III Mehl 677 $1.50*
Kappeln July 6, 1920 25 Pf L-659B VIII Mehl 677 $1.50*
Kappeln July 6, 1920 50 Pf L-659B IX Mehl 677 $3*
Kappeln July 6, 1920 50 Pf L-659A XI Mehl 677 $1.50
Kappeln July 6, 1920 50 Pf L-659A XII Mehl 677 $3*
Kappeln July 6, 1920 50 Pf L-659B XII Mehl 677 $3
Kappeln July 6, 1920 25 Pf L-659B XIII Mehl 677 $3*
Karlsruhe Oct. 16, 1918 5, 20 Mark K1918-244 $6.50
Karlsruhe Oct. 15, 1923 100 Milliarden Mark K1923--2583 Murg bridge $5
Karlsruhe November 1923 100 Milliarden Mark K1923-2582h $3
Karlstadt 1920 50 Pf P-S 1068a St. George/Dragon $4*
Katscher Oct. 12, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-661b Mehl 680 $2.50*
Keitum/Sylt 1922 50 Pf, 2 Mark L-665 Mehl 684 $4*
Keitum/Sylt ND -to Oct. 31, 1921, 50 Pf, 1 Mark; ND - Oct. 1, 1921, 2 Mark L-666b $4*
Keitum/Sylt Sept. 1, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-666c Mehl 685 $12*
Kelbra July 1, 1920 P-S 1087 25 Pf $1.25*
Kelbra June 19, 1921 540 (3) Pf L-667a Mehl 686 $3.75*
Kellinghusen Aug. 6, 1920 20 Pf L-669a Mehl 688 $1..25*
Kellinghusen April 1921 50 Pf L-669b Mehl 688 $1.25*
Kevelaer June 1, 1921 10, 50 Pf $1.25
Kiel Oct. 15, 1918 5, 10 Mark Geiger 270 $4*
Kiel Sept. 10-18, 1921 70, 80, 90 Pf L-677 Mehl $4*
Kiel Sept. 15-18, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf, 1Mark L-679 $3.50*
Kiel Sept. 1, 1923 20 Millionen Mark K1923-2614i $4.50*
Kiel Aug. 10, 1923 1 Million Mark K1923-2624
Kiel Aug. 10, 1923 1 Million Mark K1923-2624 Kieler Spar-Leihkasse $3.50
Kiel Sept. 1, 1923 20 Millionen Mark K-1923-2614i $4.50*
Kiel Nov. 20, 1918 5 Mark Geiger 272 Punch cancelled $4.25
Kitzingen/Main March 1, 1921 50 (3) Pfennig L-682 Mehl $3*
Koeln May 1, 1920 25 Pf P-S 1114i Ba VII $1.50*
Koeln Oct. 1, 1920 25 Pf P-S 1114 L Ba VIII $1
Koeln Dec. 1, 1920 10 (K38), 50 (F XII) Pf P-S 1114 o $2.25*
Koeln July 31, 1921 10 Pf P-S 1114 Q Heimkehr $1.50*
Koeln Jan. 12, 1922 50 (2) Pf L-697 Mehl 717 (Teufel, Heinzelmaenchen) $2.50*
Koeln Jan. 12, 1922 50 (3) Pf L-697 Mehl 717 A, B, C $4*
Koeln Feb. 1, 1923 10,000 Mark Mueller 2384 (Lts. C, D, H, J, K) $2.50 each
Koeln July 2, 1923 50,000 Mark K1923-2684b (Lts. B, D) $2.50 each
Koeln Aug. 15, 1923 50 Millionen Mark K1923-2684i Reihe A $2.25
Koeln Sept. 20, 1923 500 Millionen Mark K1923-2684b Serie A $2
Koeln Sept. 20, 1923 500 Millionen Mark K-1923-2684cc $3.50
Koeln Sept. 10, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K1923-2684w $3.25
Koeln-Kalk Aug. 8, 1923 1 Million Mark K1923--2730 $3.25
Koeln-Leverkusen Aug. 1, 1923 500,000 Mark K1923-3242d Fr. Bayer (aspirin!) $4
Kolberg/Pommern Sept. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-716a Mehl 737 $2*
Konstadt/Schliesien April 10, 1918 14 Pf (Odd denomination) P-S 1144e $7.50
Konstanz/Baden July 1919 50 Pf P-S 1145b $3*
Konstanz/Baden Oct. 23, 1922 5 Mark Mueller 2480/1 $5*
Konstanz/Baden Oct. 23, 1922 10 Mark Mueller 2480/2 Huss $7.50*
Konstanz/Baden Oct. 23, 1922 50 Mark Mueller 2480/4 Martin Lerne $7.50*

Konstanz/Baden Oct. 23, 1922 100 Mark Mueller 2480/7 Huss $7.50*
Konstanz/Baden Oct. 23, 1922 500 Mark Meller 2480/8 double picture Huss $7.50
Kostanz/Baden Oct. 23, 1922 500 Mark Mueller 2480/9 Huss at stake $7.50
Krakow/M-S ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-719 Mehl 740 Reutergeld $2.25*
Kranichfeld Feb. 2, 1921 50 Pf L-720 Mehl 741 $1.25*
Kreuznach 1917-1918 50 Pf P-S 1156d $20*
Kreuznach (Bad) July 13, 1923 100,000 Mark K1923-2812d $4
Kroeplin M-S ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-725 Mehl 746 Reutergeld $2.25*
Kronach 1921 50 (2) Pf L-726 Mehl 747 $1.25*
Kudowa, Bad ND 25. 50 Pf L-727 Mehl 748 $1.25*
Kulmbach Oct. 12, 1918 5 Mark P-S 1165 $2
Laage ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-733a Reutergeld Mehl 754 $2.25*
Labes/Pommern October 1921 50 Pf L-734 $1.25
Laehn/Riesengebirge ND 1 Mark L-735a Mehl 756 Scheck $1.25*
Laehn/Riesengebirge ND 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1, 1.50 Mark L-735b Mehl 756 Schecks $6.50
Lage/Lippe ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-736 Mehl 758 $2*
Lahr/B Aug. 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1178k $1.50*
Landeck, Bad/Schlesien March 11, 1921 P-S 1181e $2.25*
Landkirchen/Fehmarn ND 1 Mark L-740 $.65*
Landsberg/Lech April 1919 20 Mark 'Geiger 307 $2.25
Langeln ND 25, 50 Pf L-743 Mehl 764 Christmas theme $2.50*
Langeness-Nordmarsch, Hallig Sept. 1, 1921 20, 30, 75 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-746 Mehl 767 $7.50*
Langenhorn 1921 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-747 Mehl 768 $l6*
Langensalza 1921 25 (2(, 50 (3) Pfennig L-749 Mehl 769 $6*
Langewiesen 1921 5, 50 Pf L-751 Mehl 772 $2.50*
Langquaid Sept. 5, 1923 300,000 Mark; 1, 5 Millionen Mark K1923-2913d $7.50*
Lassan/Pommern April 1, 1920 50 f P-S 1197 $1.50*
Lauban/Schlesien October 1920 50 Pfennig P-S 1199 $1.50*
Lauenburg/Elbe ND (1920) 10 Pf P-S 1202 $1.25*
Lauchstedt, Bad P-S 1202 a II 10, 50 Pf $2*
Laueben/Schlesien ND 1 Pf PO-S 1199 $1.50*
Lauenburg/Pommern Nov. 15, 1918 10 Mark Geiger 310 $3.25*
Lauenburg/Elbe 1921 25, 50 Pfennig, 1 Mark L-753 Mehl 774 $2.25*
Lauenstein June 1921 25 Pf L-754 Mehl 775 $.65*
Laupheim/Wuerttemberg July 5, 1919 50 Pf P-S 1207 $1
Lausha S-M February 1920 50 Pf P-S 1209d $1.50*
Lausha S-M April 1921 50 Pfennig L-756 Mehl 777 Lit Chiristmas tree $3
Lautĕrburg, Bad July 15, 1921 50, 100 Pf L-758 Mehl 779 3*
Lavfen Oct. 20, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 1204 $2.50*
Lebus/Seelow July 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1219b $1.50*
Leer/Ostfriesland 1921 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-761 Mehl 782 $1.25*
Lehesten/Thuer. ND 50 Pf P-S 1220a $1.25*
Lehesten/Thuer. ND 50 Pf P-S 1220b $1.25*
Lehesten/Thuer. ND 25 Pf P-S 1220c Ser. II $2.50*

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

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