The Fraktur

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THE OBERSCHLESIEN PLEBISCITE
(CONTINUED FROM MARCH 1991)

Supervising the agreement were to be a Mixed Commission and an Arbitral Tribunal. On Oct. 19, 1921, the Conference of Ambassadors accepted the recommendation of the League.

On May 15, 1922, the convention of 606 articles was accepted by the League in Geneva. On May 24, 1922, it was ratified by the Polish Sjem, and on May 30, the hall of the Reichstag draped in mourning, a two-thirds vote approved the convention for Germany.

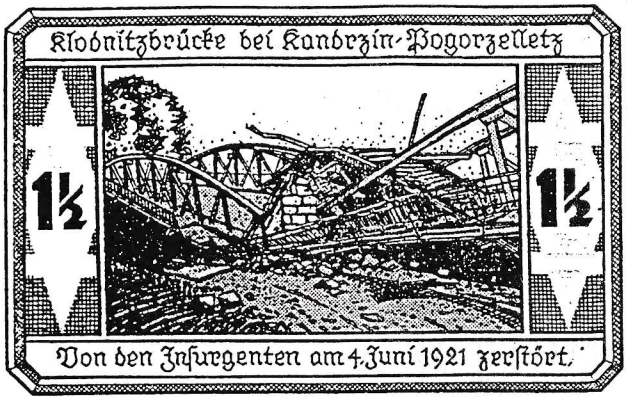
Following the vote, the Reichstag president said that the protest of Germany against the partition of Upper Silesia would remain imperishable.

On June 20 Polish troops entered their assigned areas. On June 29, 1922, Allied troops were evacuated and the authority of the Interallied Commission ended.

On Sept. 22, 1922, a special referendum was held in the German portion of Upper Silesia, and by a vote of 517,760 to

GROUPEMENT DES RÉSULTATS DU PLÉBISCITE DE HAUTE-SILÉSIE

Zones	Population en 1919	Total des votants	Pour-cent des votants à la population	Votes exprimés en faveur				Différence de voix en faveur	
				Pologne	%	Allemagne	%	Pologne	Allemagne
A. RÉGION INDUSTRIELLE À LA FRONTIÈRE DE POLOGNE									
1. Rybnik	160,836	80,438	50	52,347	65	27,919	34	24,428	....
2. Pless	141,828	72,277	51.5	53,378	74	18,875	25	34,703	....
3. Kattowitz Campagne	227,657	119,458	52	66,119	55	32,892	44	13,227	....
4. Beuthen Campagne	213,818	107,126	50	63,024	59	43,680	40	19,344	....
5. Tarnowitz	86,563	44,739	52	27,513	61	17,078	38	10,435	....
Total A	830,702	424,038		262,381		160,244	37.5	102,137	....
B. RÉGION INDUSTRIELLE INTÉRIEURE									
6. Kattowitz Ville	45,422	26,715	59	3,900	14.6	22,774	85.4	....	18,874
7. Königshütte	74,811	42,758	57	10,764	25.3	31,864	74.7	....	21,100
8. Beuthen Ville	71,187	40,091	56	10,101	25.3	29,890	74.7	....	19,789
9. Gleiwitz Ville	69,028	40,700	59	8,558	21.1	32,029	78.9	....	23,471
10. Zabrze	167,632	89,152	53	43,261	48.9	45,219	51.1	....	1,958
11. Tost-Gleiwitz partie *	27,530	(partie)		8,176	56.6	6,259	43.4	1,917	....
12. Ratibor Campagne † rive droite	27,404	"		12,258	65.3	9,902	44.7	2,356	....
Total B	483,014			97,018	35.3	177,937	64.7	....	80,919
Total A et B	1,313,716			359,399	51.8	338,181	48.2	21,218	....





The railroad bridge at Kandrzin-Pogorzelletz was destroyed during the June 4, 1921 insurgency, shown on a 1.50 Mark note of the city dated June 6, 1921. At right a Mark note of Kattowitz dated March 16, 1921, proclaims the plebiscite of March 20, 1921.

50,389, agreed to remain a part of Prussia rather than establish their own province.

Aftershocks following the division of Upper Silesia rumbled for years. The Poles wanted more land, disliked the German outvoters, propaganda. Germans countered that it all should have been ceded to Germany, calling Polish possession "a hole in the east," a beginning of "Russian barbarism."

Wambaugh calls the Upper Silesia election the "most disputed plebiscite ever held." She cites the lack of neutral members in the Interallied Commission. Military generals who had fought the war were not the proper persons to conduct a fair vote. For instance, the French are traditionally pro-Polish and the British seemed to show anti-Polish feelings.

She drily commented, "Two partisans on a Commission do not make for neutrality, but only for friction."

Professor Wambaugh scored the line of demarcation, saying "Up from the south of the Czech frontier, following ancient communal lines, the boundary twists and turns, dividing here a chateau from its stables, there a village from its cemetery; reaching the industrial area, it separates factories from their electric power, miners from their mines.

"Even shafts of the same mine are in different countries. Foundaries of the Polish part are dependent on coke from the German part; the industries of the German side on the raw materials from the Polish area. The living web of modern industry has been cut apart; yet it lives. None of the diasters so freely prophesied have come to pass."

ALLEMAGNE

Kreuzburg	96.1%
Rosenberg	68.1%
Oppeln Ville 94.9% / Oppeln Camp 69.4%	74.9%
Cosel et Ober-Glogau	80.5%
Leobschütz	99.6%
Ratibor Ville 90.5% / Ratibor Camp 59.7%	70 %

By Wilhelm Eglseer

Reference THE FRAKTUR, March 1991, feature on Oberschlesien and the plebiscite, I cannot quite imagine that "Grenzzeitung," apparently a German language newspaper, was Korfanty's publication. He was Polish and fought for a Polish Silesia; what should he do with a German language paper?

I doubt the correctness of the table on page 1. If really in the primary schools children spoke 84%, 54%, 61%, 88% etc. Polish at home, why did they have to flee as grownups in 1945-1946, when the Russians and with them the Polish people came?

I spent the whole year 1944 in Upper Silesia, Kreis Kosel and Tost-Gleiwitz, until mid-January 1945. Isn't it funny the Polish might have forgotten their language in the meantime since 1911? They all spoke German, Upper Silesian, with some Polish words.

There are even Polish words in High German, e.g. Kullern (to roll something) from "kulja," the ball.

Most probably the table comes from people who had an interest in showing to the Allied Powers that the Polish request for Silesia is justified. Also Benes produced maps in Versailles which showed there were hardly any other people in Bohemia and Moravia than Czechs; he just "forgot" that besides 6 million Czechs there lived 3.5 million Sudenten Germans.

The Allies did not know better, so he succeeded. The result was a breakdown of this artificial state Czechoslovakia in 1938. Still today the Slovaks do not want to be ruled by Czechs.

The Allies broke up the multinational Habsburg Empire and built new smaller multinational states like Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, which too is now on the brink of breaking up again (the first time in 1941).

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Rulau, Russell "Upper Silesia Plebiscite Note Catalog" World Coins Magazine, April 1972; October 1972; January 1973; April 1973; August 1973.

Wambaugh, Sarah "Plebiscites Since the World War," 1933, Washington, D.C. (See THE FRAKTUR, July 1990)

Classified Advertising

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LES BILLETS DE NECESSITE

By Tony James

(Continued from March 1991)

First French Notes

The first authority to issue these billets de necessite was the town of Nancy. On July 29, 1914, the council invoked the precedent of 1870-1871 and deliberated on the issue of "Bons de monnaie de five, two and one franc."

The proofs prepared by the printing firm of Berger-Levraut were accepted by the town's Finance Department on Aug. 2, and on Aug. 7, the Municipal Council authorized the printing with the limitation of 500,000 francs.

The town of St. Quentin, 120 kilometers northeast of Paris, was almost as fast. Their council made the decision on Aug. 3. In their haste they kept the design very simple indeed. Signed by the mayor, redeemable in coin at sight, three months after the signing of peace. The ink was not allowed to dry on the rubber stamped signature before validation by the Council Seal and removal of the counter-foil on the left hand side of the note.

Although the fighting was confined to the north of France and Belgium, another early starter in the note-issuing stakes was the Chamber of Commerce of Marseille, one of the major French ports on the coast of the Mediterranean, issued by its authority on Aug. 12, 1914.

The note is unusually ornate in design, although still only one color, blue. Facets of life are portrayed: the Industry of blacksmithing; farming, produce of land and sea; and the coat of arms of the city.

The town of Lille, in the middle of the area with the most conflict, made many issues both by the Chamber of Commerce and the town bank. The Banque d'Emisson de Lille issued many different series maintaining similar styles and colors.

In 1915 it issued round cardboard coins, like tokens, commonly called cartons, which resembled the coins that had gone to feed the guns. These were longer-lasting than the notes issued for amounts under a franc.

The small villages (communes as they were known in France) that were cut off by the fighting often issued carton type tokens. The 10-centimes issue from the commune Forest filled a necessity. However, even then the local grocery shop belonging to Madame Lostra ran out of small change and so she issued her own. Although not carrying any reimbursement clause or signature, Mrs. Lostra's name was good and she restricted circulation to the village, with redemption only possible at her establishment.

The Occupied Areas

In the German occupied areas of France, because the coins were requisitioned and being cut off from supplies of national notes, the authorities had little option but to authorize the issue of notes from as little as 25 centimes, up to, in some cases, 1,000 francs. These had no cover or guarantee of redemption.

(To be Continued)

Fallersleben Oct. 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf L-344 $2.50*
Finsterwalde July 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-348 $2.25*
Flensburg Jan. 16, 1920 25 Pf Plebiscite L-355b $.60*
Flensburg March 14, 1921 50 Pf L-355d $.60
Floeha/Sachsen 5 Mark Nov. 1, 1918 K-133 $2.25*
Floeha/Sachsen to Dec. 31, 1920 10 Pf P-S 612e VIII $.60*
Forst/Lausitz July 1, 1921 10, 20, 25, 50 Pf Set L-357 $2.75*
Frankenhausen/Kyff. June 19, 1921 50 (6) Pf Set L-359a $7.50*
Frankfurt/Main May 1, 1917 50 Pf.; Nov. 1, 1919, 25 Pf $1.25*
Frankfurt/Oder ND 10, 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark Set L-361 $2.25*
Frankfurt/Oder June 3, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 626 $1.75*
Fraustadt ND (1917) 25, 50 Pf P-S 629a $1.25*
Freiberg/Sachsen to Dec. 31, 1918 50 Pf P-S 631c $2*
Freiberg/Sachsen to Sept. 30, 1921 5, 10 Pf $1*
Freiberg/Sachsen 1921 1, 2, 97 Pf (one note) L-363c $1*
Freiberg/Sachsen July 22, (Streittag), 1921 50 (5), 75 (5) Pf Set L-365 $7.50*
Freiberg/Sachsen to Sept. 30, 1921 1, 2, 5, 10 Pf P-S 631 $2*
Freiberg/Sachsen to Dec. 31, 1920 5, 10 Pf $1*
Freiberg/Sachsen to Dec. 31, 1922 5 Pf $.55*
Freiburg/Breisgau March 30, 1920 50 (3) Pf $2.25*
Freiburg/Breisgau Sept. 1921 50 Pf L-368 $1
Freiburg/Schlesien June 15, 1919 25 Pf $1.25*
Freiburg/Schlesien September 1921 25 (2) Pf $1.25*
Freienohl/Sauerland ND 50 (3), 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-370 $8*
Freienwalde Nov. 1920 50 Pf; 1921, 25 Pf L-371 $1.25*
Freienwalde/Pommern 1921 25, 75 Pf L-371c $1.25*
Freital Sept. 24, 1923 50 Million Mark $3
Friedberg/Hessen March 1, 1920 25 Pf $1.25*
Freyburg/Unstrut May 15, 1920 5, 10, 50 Pf $1*
Freystadt/West Prussia Dec. 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf SP-S 640 $3*
Friedberg/Hessen Mar. 1, 1920 25 Pf; Dec. 1, 1920, 25 Pf 643d $.75
Friedrichsbrunn/Harz Oct. 15, 1921 50 (10) Pf L-380c $7.50*
Friedrichshafen Nov. 1, 1918 5, 50 Mark $7.50
Friedrichroda/Thuer. ND 10 (3), 30 (4), 50 (2) Pf L-379a $6*
Friedrichroda/Thuer. Sept. 11-25, 1921 50 Pf L-379b $1.75*
Friesack/Mark Nov. 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-382 $1.75*
Frohse/Elbe May 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-383 $1.25*
Frose/Anhalt March 15, 1921 50 (4) Pf L-384a $3.25*
Frose/Anhalt June 27, 1921 25, 50 (4), 75 Pf L-384b $3.50
Frose/Anhalt ND 75 Pf L384c Loesungsschein $1.25*
Fruecht/Ems Jan. 1, 1922 25,50 Pf L-385 $2.25*
Fuerstenberg/Meck-St. Aug. 1, 1921 10, 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (3) Pf, 1 Mark (3) Tausch Set L-388 $7.50*
Fuerstenwalde/Spree 1921 20 (3), 25 (3), 50 (3), 75 (3) Pf L-389 $8*
Fuessen April 1, 1918 50 (2) Pf P-S 683f $1.50*
Gatersleben July 30, 1921 25, 50 (4), 75 Pf Set L-395 $3*
Geislingen/St Oct. 1918 25 Pf P-S 695 $.75*
Geldern ND 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1, 2 Mark Set of Schecks L-400 $7.50*
Geldern May 7, 1920 25 Pf $.65

Geldern May 7, 1920 25 Pf $.65
Geldern Nov. 4, 1921 75 (8) Pf Set L-402 $10*
Genthin July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1, 2, 5 Mark set L-405b $3.50*
Gera to Feb. 1, 1919 20 Mark K-158 (2) folds $2.50
Gernrode May 9, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf Set L-409 $4*
Giessen Nov. 1, 1918 5, 10, 50 Mark set K-168 $4.50*
Glauchau ND 50 (6), 75 (6) Pf Buttermilk war L-422 $7.50*
Glogau/Schlesien to Dec. 31, 1920 10 Pf Reihe V $.75*
Glogau/Schlesien Dec. 1, 1920 25, 50, 75 Pf 1 Mark L-425 Set $2.50*
Gluecksburg 1920 25, 50 Pf 1 Mark Set L-427 $4*
Goch Jan. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf set L-431a $4*
Godelheim May 10, 1921 1 Mark L-432 $1.75*
Godesberg/Rhein Oct. 25, 1920 50 Pf P-S 744 $.50*
Goettingen Nov. 6, 1921 50 Pf P-S 751e $.50
Goslar/Harz June 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf set L-441 $1.75*
Gotha July 15, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-442c $1.75*
Gotha Sept. 30, 1922 500 Mark value numerals K-230c $2.50
Gotha Sept. 30, 1922 500 Mark no value numerals K-230c $4
Gransee/Mark 25, 50, 75 Pf; 1.25, 1.75 Mark set Schecks L-451 $3.50*
Graefenhainichen to May 31, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf L-447 $11*
Graefenthal/Thuer. 1921 10, 50 Pf L-449 $1.25*
Greiffenberg/Schl April 19, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf L-456a $1.75*
Greiffenberg/Schl 192-, 30, 60 Pf, 1, 3, 5 Mark Set Schecks L-456b $3.50*
Greiz Jan. 1, 1919 10, 50 Pf P-S 778a $2*
Greiz Oct. 1, 1919 50 Pf P-S 778b $.50
Greiz Jan. 1, 1921 50 Pf P-S 778c $.75
Greiz Sept. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75, 90 Pf L-457 $2.50*
Greiz Sept. 5, 1921 25, 50, 75, 90 Pf Set L-457 $2.50*
Greussen/Thuer ND 25, 50 Pf L-458 $2.50*
Grevesmuehlen/Meck to Dec. 31, 1923 50 Pf L-459 $.60*
Groemitz May 12, 1921 50+50, 1 Mark; 75 Pf (2 notes) L-460 $1.75
Grossenhain to Dec. 31, 1920 10 Pf P-S 813b $.50
Gross-Flotbek Sept. 1, 1921 10, 25, 30, 50, 75 Pf; 1 Mark L-468 $4*
Gross-Nordende Sept. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf; 1 Mark Set L-470 $5*
Gross Salze Aug. 10, 1920 25 Pf P-S 824 $.50*
Grube Ilse/NL ND (1917) 5, 10 Pf P-S 832 $2*
Gruenberg/Schlesien to Dec. 31, 1921 75 (2) Pf; 1 Mark (6) L-474c $5*
Gruenberg/Schlesien to Dec. 31, 1921 75 (7) Pf set L-474d $4.50*
Grundhof April 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-478 $1.25*
Guhrau/Schlesien 1922 50, 75 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-481 Schecks $2.50*

*Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman catalog; P-S Pick-Siemsen

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