July 1988

Last month we were passing Xanten on our barge trip up the Rhine River. Today we continue the trip, first passing Wesel on the right bank.

The German name for weasel is Wiesel, though the three animals depicted on the town's coat of arms are definitely weasels. At the town of Wesel the Lippe River enters the Rhine, from its course defining the northern boundary of the Ruhr region, originating near Schlangen, south of Detmold.

The Romans fortified the outpost at Wesel, and the town was a member of the Hanseatic League.

In another time, English Protestants found refuge in the time of Bloody Mary; they worshipped in the Gothic church at Wesel.

Issues of notgeld printed for circulation included denominations of 25 and 50 pfennig dated 1917; 1918; and 1919; also 25 pfennig in 1920 and 1921. Seriensscheine, the type printed for collectors, were three 50 pfennig notes and three of 75 pfennig. On the latter, control numbers are known in various sizes.

Inflation notes were issued from Aug. 11, 1923, through Nov. 20, 1923, in values ranging from 500,000 mark to five billionen mark (5,000,000,000,000). Now appearing on the left bank of the river is the town of Dinslaken, only a village of 1,624 persons in 1870. The first notgeld issues appeared in November 1914, a mark note.

Notes for circulation were issued in 10, 25 and 50 pfennig values, dated Aug. 1, 1920. Appearing off the bow of the barge is Homberg, shown as Homberg (Niederrhein) on the million mark note dated Aug. 15, 1923. When asking for this note or identifying it, one should remember that in Germany there are two Hombergs, two Homburgs and of course, Hamburg.

Between Aug. 2, 1923, and Sept. 20, 1923, the city issued notes ranging in denominations from 500,000 mark to 20 million mark.

The first major notgeld-issuing town of Germany found along the Rhine is Duisburg, on the right bank of the river. The Romans called the town Castrum Deusonis; even before the Romans it was a Teuton camp.

Here we encounter two phenomena peculiar to German notgeld collecting which can easily confuse many collectors. Suburbs which might have issued notgeld were later taken into the city in many instances, causing confusion for both catalogers and collectors trying to find a note. The town of Hamborn is an example, no longer on a map unless it is shown as a part of the city of Duisburg.

Hamborn notes included a circulation issue dated March 27, 1920, values 25 and 50 pfennig; 1922 inflation notes, first appearing on Nov. 2 in 1000,000 mark values and rising to the Oct. 10, 1923 issues as high as five milliarden (5,000,000,000) mark. Dated Oct. 15, 1923, are notes considered fantasy or counterfeit.

Three private firms issued numerous notes in 1923.

But now Hamborn is off the map, a "Stadtteil" or suburb of the city.

Also designated as from Duisburg subdivisions are notes from Duisburg-Hochfeld, Duisburg-Meiderich, Duisburg-Ruhrort and Duisburg-Wanheim.

Here our barge will heave to for the night and give us an opportunity to stretch our legs ashore and look around the city. Noted for its classic column is the city theater, dating from 1912. The Abteikirche dating from the 12th century is notable, as is the 15th century Salvatorkirche.

Among bridges spanning the Rhine and the Ruhr in the area of Duisburg are the Friedrich-Ebert-Bruecke; the Schwanentorbruecke; and the Marietorbruecke.



A steam sidewheeler plies the Rhine at Duisburg, carrying cargo and passengers, on a 50 pfennig note, Oct. 18, 1919.

A regular river port exists in the area of Duisburg-Ruhrort, literally "Ruhr town," where the Ruhr River is received by the Rhine. The Ruhr is the basic southern boundary of the bustling Ruhr region, the coal and iron industrial area of Germany. The Rhine-Ruhr port at Duisburg extends for 20 miles, the greatest inland port in the world.

It originates in the Arnsberger Wald on the Wennemer Hoehe, near Freienohl. Just a collection of notgeld from towns located between the Lippe and Ruhr Rivers would be impressive. From where the Lippe enters the Rhine at Wesel to the Ruhr and Rhine is only about 15 miles, as the crow flies. The Ruhr industrial region extends about 45 miles west of the Rhine.

In 1923, Professor Kolbe designed a series of three coins depicting Prometheus, with the legend "Deutsches Volksopfer Ruhr und Rhein. The 50 million mark piece was struck in brass; 100 million mark, silver plated brass, and 500 million mark, gold plated brass, all 33 millimeters.

NUMBERS ON PAPER NOTGELD

The collector of German emergency paper money does not have the chance to discern differences with a single note in front of him. There are three series of catalogs available which do often describe variations of notes.

The collector needing a note usually takes what he finds in whatever condition it is in. But when another is offered, usually the first impulse is to upgrade condition. With duplicate notes comes the opportunity to compare some of these varieties.

Let's begin with the control or serial number (KZ in German catalogs). It can be in different colors; two or three heights, usually described in catalogs in millimeters; and different type styles. Visual examination, and a millimeter scale, are the best determinants.

At the bottom of many notes is the name of the printer. When examining notes for varieties, one may have the printer, another may not. The name may not always appear in the same location, and different printers may be used.

And now we come to the series numbers. These more likely will appear on the Serienscheine, the notes made for collectors, offered at premiums to collectors in the 1920-1921 period, and usually with limited or no redemption provided.

A cardinal rule in dealing with numbers is to seek the lowest ones, assuming condition equal. You will even find number 000 000, though I have been told in some series many notes were so numbered. perhaps by the same town.

Konto, Series or Reihe are among the terms often found on these notes. Perhaps Konto A represented 1,000 or 10,000 notes. Then we print Konto B, and Konto C, etc. So if you have Konto A and find a similar note, but Konto B, you want to keep it also.

Due to different printers, times, etc., quality of paper and color may vary from one printing series to the next. And as these continued to be printed, numbers as high as 300,000 may be found, when perhaps a note in your collection is under 1,000.

American notgeld collectors can also play that popular paper money game called radar numbers, more properly palindromes. Such numbers or words read the same from front to back, such as 1234321, or 2468642 or "Madam, I'm Adam". I do not believe it is the taste of Germans to engage in this, since it is an incidental portion of a note.

Of more usefulness, and quite desirable, are matching numbers, often found in the sets or series notes. Perhaps there are six 50 pfennig notes which, in a certain order, tell a story. Each of these may contain the same serial number. Sets of notes are desirable and the matching numbers are sought.

Notgeld Glossary

Album	Album, Alben
Allied Military payment currency	Allierte Militaerbehoerde
Asterisk	Stern
Auction	Auktion, Vesrsteigerung
Authentic	Authentisch, echt
Bank note	Banknote
barter	Tauschhandel
between	zwischen
bilingual	Zweisprachig
billion	Billion (1,000,000,000,000)
black	Schwarz
blank	Leer, Unbedruckte (plain back)
blue	Blau
border	Rand
bottom	Unten
bourse	Boerse
biscuit	Porcelain
brother, brothers	Bruder, Gebrueder
cantine token	Kantinenmarke
cardboard	Pappe, Karton
cartouche	Kartusche
catalog	Katalog
center	Mitte, Zentrum
check	Scheck
check mark	Kontrollmarke
circle	Kreis, county
circulated	gebraucht
city	Stadt
coat of arms	Wappen
collection	Sammlung
color	Farbe
color variety	Farbvariante
common	Gewoehnlich
complete	Komplett
concentration camp	Konz
condition	erhaltungszustand
conjoined heads	Doppelportraet
consecutively numbered	fortaufend numeriert
conversion note office	Konversion Kasse
convention	Konvention
corner	Ecke; egg; eck
cost	Preis, Kosten
counterfeit	Faelschen
crisp	Frisch
currency note	Geldschein
dark (color)	Dunkle
date	datum
dealer	Handler
denomination	Nennwert, Wertsteufe
depreciation	Wertverringerung
design	Entwurf

Notes on German Metal Notgeld

At least 36 private firms struck the metal notgeld of Germany in the World War I period, according to Fritz Giseke, who wrote the Hartnotgeld volume in the series, "Das deutsche Notgeld 1915-1921," by Dr. Arnold Keller.

The story about these firms and the way they did business will make up several segments. But let us dwell for a bit on a couple producers of notgeld who made some of the better issues, none other than two German mints.

The Staatliche Saechsische Muenze in Muldenhuette, now East Germany, struck coins for Altenburg, 1920, five, 10 and 50 pfennig, zinc round. Incidentally, Muldenhuette is on the Mulde River but off the map for years, since it was incorporated into the town of Friburg.

From Stuttgart, the Wurttembergisches Muenzamt struck pieces for 13 towns, plus Luxemburg and Poland. We will briefly cite them:

POLAND 1917 5, 10, 20 fenigow, iron, round, mintmark F.
1918 1, 5, 10, 20 iron round F.
LUXEMBURG 1918 5, 10 centimes iron round.
1919, 1920 25 centimes, iron round
AALEN 1917, 1920 1, 2 pfennig iron round
CALW 1920 1, 2 pfennig iron round
CANNSTADT 1920 1 pfennig iron round
FREUDENSTADT 1920 1, 2 pfennig iron round
HALL 1920 5 pfennig iron round
KEMPTEN/Bayern 1920 1, 2 pfennig iron round
BAD MERGENTHEIM 1920 1, 2 pfennig iron round
MUENSINGEN 1920 10 pfennig zinc round; 50 pfennig iron round
NAGOLD 1920 10 pfennig zinc round; 1, 2, 50 pfennig iron round
NEUENBURG 1918 20, 50 pfennig iron octagon
RAVENSBURG 1920 1, 2 iron round
REUTLINGEN 1920 1, 2 pfennig iron round
ROTTWEIL 1920 1 pfennig iron round

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We will include some remarks about a few metal pieces, even porcelain, and a set of coal notgeld with serial numbers. Such is not unusual for paper money, but very interesting collectibles in these other mediums. Theoretically, each metal piece is different and collectible, with the different number. The town of Lauter, for instance, struck pieces with and without numbers. Some numbered porcelain pieces were used as lottery tickets.

The Fraktur Pricelist
July 1988

Manebach 20, 50 (5) pf. Nov. 15, 1920 Keller 691 Series $3.*
Melle 10, 25, 50 pf. Nov. 15, 1920 Keller 700 $2.50.*
Mittelwalde 25 pf. NO (1920) Keller 1385 Circ .60.
Neckargemund 50 pf. Oct. 1, 1917 Keller 1847a Circ $1.75*
Neurode/Glatz 25 pf. Jan. 1, 1921 Keller 754 Series $2
Niebuell 50 pf. April 20, 1920 Keller 776 Series .75.*
Noerdlingen 20 pf. (2) Oct. 2, 1918 Keller 784b Series $1.50
Oberweissbach 50 pf. July 1, 1921 Keller 806 Series .75.*
Oldisleben 50 pf. (10) Aug. 5, 1921 Keller 823 Series. $5.50*
Osterhorn 60, 70 pf. ND, to Dec. 31, 1921 Keller 836 Series $2.50
Plaue/Thuer., 50 pf. Oct. 30, 1921 Keller 862 .50.*
Prisdorf 25 pf. ND Keller 874 Series $1.25
Ranis/Thuer. 50 pf. July 30, 1921 Keller 894 Series .40*
Rendsburg 50 pf. July 1, 1918 Keller 2176b. Circ. $1.25*
Salzwedel 50 pf. May 15, 1917 Keller 2251a Circ $2*
Schlesiengrube OS half mark Feb. 17, 1917 Keller 2288 Circ. $2.50.
Schneverdingen 25 pf. Feb. 25, 1921 Keller 981b Circ $1.*
Schwarzburg 50 pf. Nov. 25, 1918 Keller 2330.I .75*
Siegburg 25 pf. March 20, 1921 Keller 1010a Series $1.75*
Stadtilm 50 pf. May 21, 1921 Keller 1033 Series $1*
Stassfurt 5, 10 mark Oct. 1, 1918 Keller 469 Grossgeld $2.50
Stoltau 70 pf. 1921 Keller 1060a Series $1*
Stettin 25, 50 (2), 75 pf. Jan. 1, 1922 Keller 1051d $4.50*
Thesdorf 50 pf. ND Keller 1099 Series .75*
Torgau 25, 50 pf Feb. 10, 1921 Keller 1108 .75*
Twistringen 25 pf. Sept. 1, 1921 Keller 1124b .50*
Uelzen 50 pf. (9 of set of 10) July 1, 1922 Keller 1126 Series $4*
Westerburg 50 pf. Dec. 1, 1920 Keller 1171 Series .50*
Winsen 50 pf. To June 30, 1921 Keller 1189 Series .75*
Wanfried 5, 10 pf. ND (1920) Keller 2561 Circ $1.50*
Waldenburg/Schl. 10 pf. To Dec. 3, 1918 Keller 2552a Circ. $2*
Wiedenbrueck 25 pf, Dec., 15, 1918; 50 pf., Feb. 15, 1918. Keller 2621, Circ. $4 Please order without sending money; many times we are sold out.
Postage extra on orders under $10. Condition not always uncirculated, price considers condition. Prices are for the lot offered. These notes will not be offered again for 1 year. In many cases only one is available. * Indicates uncirculated. Returns accepted for 10 days.
THE FRAKTUR, P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945.