The Fraktur

VOL. VI, NR. 1

January 1993

TILL EULENSPIEGEL

If you had been a resident of Kneitling, Germany, in the 14th century, it would not have been prudent to have left your shoes under your bed while you slept.

Till Eulenspiegel wandered through the village, collecting shoes here and there while clothed in a tight-fitting clown outfit, then escaped with his loot by walking a tightrope, according to the legends.

Or he might pester a sleeping elderly person by tickling his nose with a feather.

Or partying with monks in their wine cellar.

A book describing the antics of Till Eulen (owl) spiegel (mirror), "Ein kurtzweilig lesen von Dyl Vlenspiegel geboren vss dem land zu Brunsswick," was printed in Antwerp in 1515; the only known extant copy is in the British Museum. Another Belgian source gives his date of birth as 1527!

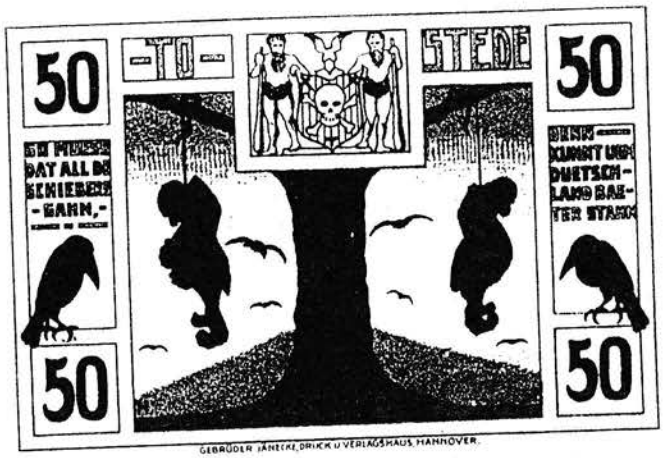
Variations of spelling of the name include Tyll Ulenspiegel and different combinations.

John Ritchie Wilke, Leeds, England, commented in the "Encyclopedia Britannica," "The jests and practical jokes, which generally depended on a pun, a deliberate literal interpretation of some metaphorical command, are broadly farcical, often brutal, sometimes obscene, but they have a serious theme.

"In the figure of Eulenspiegel, the individual gets his own back on society, the stupid yet cunning peasant demonstrated his superiority to the narrow, dishonest, condescending townsman, as well as to the clergy and nobility," Wilke comments.

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MONTHLY NOTGELD QUOTE. . .



Tostedt L-1299
50-Pfennig

All racketeers should encounter
this fate
Then all things would be better
in Germany







Four towns in Germany issued Eulenspiegel Notgeld: Kneitlingen, his birthplace; Moelln, where he died; Osterwieck, where perhaps he lived; and Braunschweig.

The theme and adventures spread to other countries, often amplified. In 1519 there appeared in the Dutch language "Van Vlenspieghels leuen," and in English, "Here beginneth a merye Jest of a man that was called Howleglas," appearing about 1560; in Scottish literature the name was "Holliglas."

In "The Summoner's Tale," a part of "Canterbury Tales" by Geoffrey Chaucer, 1340-1400, characters include a wily peasant and wandering jack-of-all-trades whose jokes and pranks play on townspeople, nobles, priests and innkeepers, all of whom are reflected by Eulenspiegel, though he is not named.

Later in England, Ben Jonson, 1573-1637, devised several stories in which Howleglass or Ulenspiegel figured, including "The Poetaster," 1601; "The Alchemist," 1611; "Masque of the Fortunate Isles," 1625; and "The Sad Shepherd," 1637.

From the Dutch version came a French translation, in 1532, and even into Latin in 1558. The tale was also carried in Polish and Danish.

The role of the fool or jester has been described back to Imperial Rome, in the ninth century court of Harun al-Rashid, Mac-da-Cherda in seventh century Ireland. He was the dwarf buffoon Vidusaka in Asian India; Il Magtello in Mantua, Italy during the Renaissance; Claus Narr in Germany and L'Angely, finally banished by Louis XIV in France.

He gave life to the Fasching parades of Germany and perhaps his touch can be seen in modern political cartoons.

Enid Elder Hancock Welsford, Cambridge, England, reminds us that the fool appeared in Shakespear's "As You Like It," "Twelfth Night" and "King Lear."

Welsford comments "The fool is easily confused with the buffoon. Such characters attract stock jokes and may become mythical heroes of jestbooks, and many pranks of Till Eulenspiegel, John Scogan and Bertoldo were derived from the legend of the peasant Marcolf who outwitted Solomon."



Moelln L-870
25-Pfennig



Till looks into a mirror held by his mother-in-law. At right is a statue depicting the lad, near a woodland lake in Moelln. In Moelln is the local museum with the Eulenspiegel Room.

She adds, "The buffoon resembles the fool in his irresponsible absurdity, but he is mischievous rather than insane, whereas the fool is essentially a real or pretended lunatic."

Claus Ulenspiegel and Anna Widaken were parents of Till. Belgian accounts place his birth in Damme on the Bruges canal, in 1527, to Claes Ulenspiegel and his wife, Soetkin. The German account gives the birthplace as Kneitlingen.

Moelln is the supposed location of his death, in 1350, which hardly jibes with his date of birth. The crypt and stone over the grave show an owl and a mirror.

Moelln gained world-wide publicity when, on Nov. 23, 1992, rightist skin-heads burned a house occupied by Turkish citizens; three were killed. Moelln has a population today of 18,000, some 25 miles east of Hamburg.

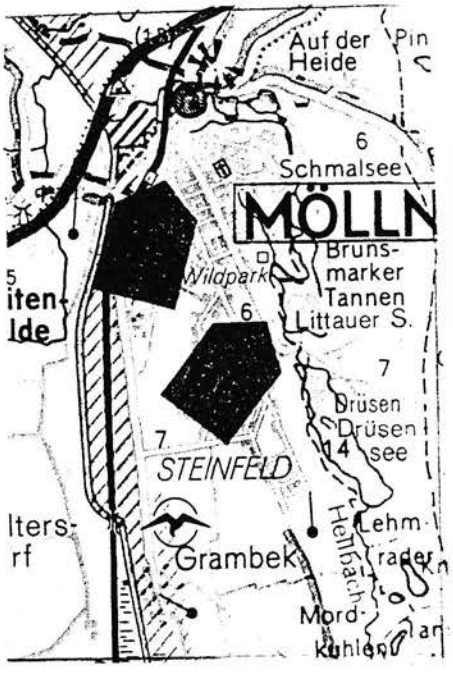
Charles Theodore Henri de Coster, 1827-1879, spent 10 years writing "Le Legende et les aventures heroiques, joyeuses et glorieuses d'Ulenspiegel et de Lamme Goedzak au pays de Flandres et ailleurs," set in the 16th century.

During the reign of terror of the Inquisition in the 16th century, Till's father was burned at the stake as a heretic in legends of that day.

The theme of resistance against oppression, as Till avenges the death of his father, has been described as "the Bible of Flanders," and "the breviary of freedom."



Moelln L-870
50-Pfennig



Till strides, holding an owl and a mirror. At right, Moelln appears on a map; it lies about 75 miles east of Hamburg, due south of Luebeck.

Joseph-Eduard-Marie-Ghislain Delmelle, a member of the Academic International de Culture Francaise, comments "neither the gruesome death scenes and the shrieks of the tortured, nor, on the other hand, a certain tendency to philosophize, prevent its being, as the author describes it, 'a merry, jovial book, a work of art and of literature.'"

The early works describing our hero "consisted of tales of a mischievous and rascally peasant, a vagabond, who traveled from place to place in his encounters with various townsmen," Robert Talisman recalled in "World Coins Magazine" in November 1969.

He continued, "It was at this time that towns were becoming more important in the conduct of life, and this attitude was reflected by the overbearing disposition that the townspeople assumed toward the man still living off the land.

"Considered as a boor and naturally inferior, the peasant

sought some redress; Till's activities made fools of the town dwellers and thus was a revolt of the countryman against a sophisticated class prejudice," Talisman concludes.

Till Eulenspiegel entered other media of culture cited by Wilkie including "Eulenspiegel reimensweis," 1572; the symphonic poem of Richard Strauss. "Till Eulenspiegels lustige Streiche," 1894; and "Till Eulenspiegel" by Gerhart Hauptmann, 1928.

Braunschweig L-147a

May 1, 1921 to May 1, 1923 Set designed by Gunter Clausen
10 Pfennig Tyll holds mirror in right hand, looks at owl at his left. Printed by Appelhaus, with and without name of printer.
25 Pfennig Tyll as a baker of owls, apes, horses. Printed by Appelhaus and Vieweg, with and without name of printer.
50 Pfennig Tyll as lover, with wine bottle. Printed by Appelhaus, with and without "Braunschweig."
75 Pfennig Tyll as doctor, with woman with market basket. Printed by Vieweg, with and without name of printer.

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Kneitlingen L-690

July 1, 1921 to Nov. 1, 1921 (released in 1922, after redemption date. Some come in a holder.) Rough and smooth paper, with and without name of printer, H. G. Rathgens, Luebeck; designer Gunther Clausen. There are 12 values plus 34 varieties.

50 Pfennig Tyll before a gate
50 Pfennig Tyll tickles nose of sleeping elderly man
50 Pfennig Tyll offers rake to two men in creek
50 Pfennig Tyll with parents Claus and Anna
75 Pfennig Tyll on the tightrope with shoes
75 Pfennig Tyll saluting with right thumb at nose; cat in tree
75 Pfennig Tyll riding in horse-drawn cart
75 Pfennig Tyll with a palette before a blank wall
1 Mark Tyll watches two monks on stair rail
1 Mark Tyll on donkey
1 Mark Tyll's headstone, casket
1 Mark Tyll in the bakery









Moelln L-870

Undated, good to Dec. 31, 1921
50 Pfennig Face, town seal. Back, Tyll holding owl and mirror as he walks. Printer not given. Varieties with and without period after 1921 in date. Paper thin and grey or thick and white.
50 Pfennig Face, view of town. Back, as previous note.
25 Pfennig Back, Tyll looks in mirror held by mother-in-law
50 Pfennig Back as previous note
100 Pfennig Back as previous notes
These last three notes were printed by Borchers Brothers GmbH Luebeck

Osterwieck L-1009a

50 Pfennig Jan. 1, 1921 to Dec. 31, 1921
Color varieties of olive grey; black grey; and yellow brown

Classified Advertising

GERMAN METAL NOTGELD bought and sold. Sell municipal, private, POW, transportation, encased postage, beer tokens and some French. Also sell related literature. T.J. Orlik, P.O. Box 947, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

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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

Magdeburg Oct. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 1849 fold $1
Magdeburg April 1, 1920 25 Pf P-S 1318d $.75
Magdeburg 1921 50 (4) Pf Set L-832 $2*
Mainbirnheim Dec. 1920 25, 50 Pf L-835 $1.25*
Mainz Jan. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-836 $1.25*
Malente Nov. 20, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-840 $1.25*
Mallmitz/Bober July 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf Set L-841 $1.75*
Marburg/Lahn Oct. 11, 1918 10 Mark K-317 $7.50*
Marburg/Lahn Aug. 11, 1923 200,000 Mark red overprint:
5 Milliarden Mark, Oct. 25, 1923 $3
Marienburg/Westpreussen Nov. 13, 1918 5, 10, 20 Mark Set K-322 $9.50
Marienburg/Westpreussen July 11, 1920 25 Pf, 1 Mark L-846 Plebiscite $3.50
Marienwerder/Westpreussen ND (1920) 50 Pf P-S 1336b $1.50*
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Medebach Sept. 2, 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-851 $1.25*
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Meiningen July 21, 1921 20 Pf; July 31, 1921, 30 Pf L-853c, d $1.25*
Memel Feb. 22, 1922 Half Mark L-857 $1.50
Menteroda Nov. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-858 $1.25*
Meppen May 31, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-859 $1.25*
Merseburg May 1, 1921 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 (6) Pf Set L-860 $6*
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Meura ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-862 $1.75*
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Moenchen-Gladbach July 3, 1923 50,000, 100,000 Mark K-3681a $4.50
Moenchen-Gladbach Aug. 25, 1923 5,000,000 Mark K-3681q $2.50
Moenchen-Gladbach-Rheydt ND 25 Pf Streetcar ticket $.50
Moers Aug. 1, 1923 500,000, 5,000,000 Mark K-3593e $3.25
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Muehlberg/Elbe July 1, 1921 10 Pf L-879 Schiestl $.65*
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Muehlhausen/Thuer. Dec. 15, 1918 1 Mark K-337c $2*
Muehlhausen/Thuer. April 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-881 $3.50*
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Muenchen Nov. 25, 1918 50 Pf P-S 1420 $2
Muenchen Oct. 20, 1922 100 Millionen Mark Bay. Staatsbank $4.25*
Muenchen June 15, 1923 100,000 Mark Bay. Notenbank $3.25
Muenchen Aug. 1, 1923 1 and 10 Millionen Mark Bav.

Staatsbank Pick R30 $7
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20 Milliarden Mark $5
Muenster/Westfalen ND 5 Mark POW Campbell 3304 $10
Muenster/Westfalen Aug. 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-891 $3*
Muenster/Westfalen Aug. 1, 1921 2 Mark (5) L-891 $3*
Muenstermaifeld Aug. 1921 50 Pf L-894 $1.25*
Nachterstedt/Sachsen June 1, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-897 $2.25
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Neuruppin Aug. 1921 50 (2) Pf L-932c $2.50
Neuss/Rheinland May 1, 1917 10, 50 Pf P-S 1881 $3
Neuss/Rheinland May 1, 1919 25, 50 Pf P-S 1881e $4*
Neuss/Rheinland Sept. 15, 1919 50 Pf P-S 1881f $.75*
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Neustadt/Holstein ND 75 Pf Am Strange L-936 No Control Nr. $10*
Neustadt/Holstein ND 75 Pf Am Hafen Control Nr. L-936 $3*

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K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman Serienscheine; P-S Pick-Siemsen
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