The Fraktur

VOL. X, NR. 10 October 1997

Trier Note Expresses Sentiment of Notgeld

By Tudor Morris

An undated Mark note of Trier, issued by the city theater, Lindman 1312, expresses in just a few words the feelings of the citizens about Notgeld.

"Oh, wicked money! Wicked world!
Do not trust appearances!
People make false money -
Money makes false people!"



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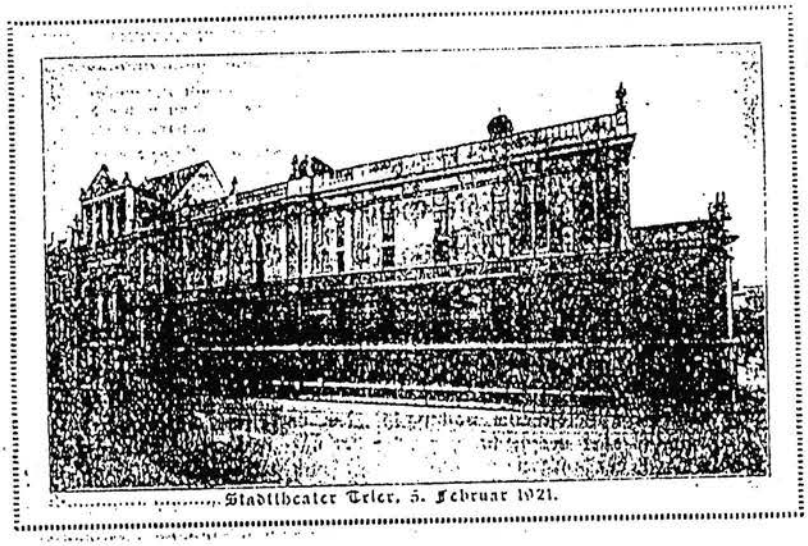
MONTHLY NOTGELD QUOTE . . .

Wilhelmshaven-Rustringen
50 Pfennig, no date
L-1394

God's Friend
and All the World's Foe.

(The motto of Klaus Stoertebeker, popular pirate who was in 1401 captured and executed by the City of Hamburg.)





And a dire warning, in a humourous way, is vented on those who would consider counterfeiting the note:

"Whoever copies or counterfeits this note, or acquires or puts it into circulation, copied or counterfeited, will be smitten by the singer's curse."

On the back of the note is an illustration of the city theater of Trier, as it appeared on Feb. 5, 1921.

The KING lives -- in Bad Nauheim

Media interest was focused on a popular visitor to, and resident of, for a period, Bad Nauheim (see THE FRAKTUR, December 1995).

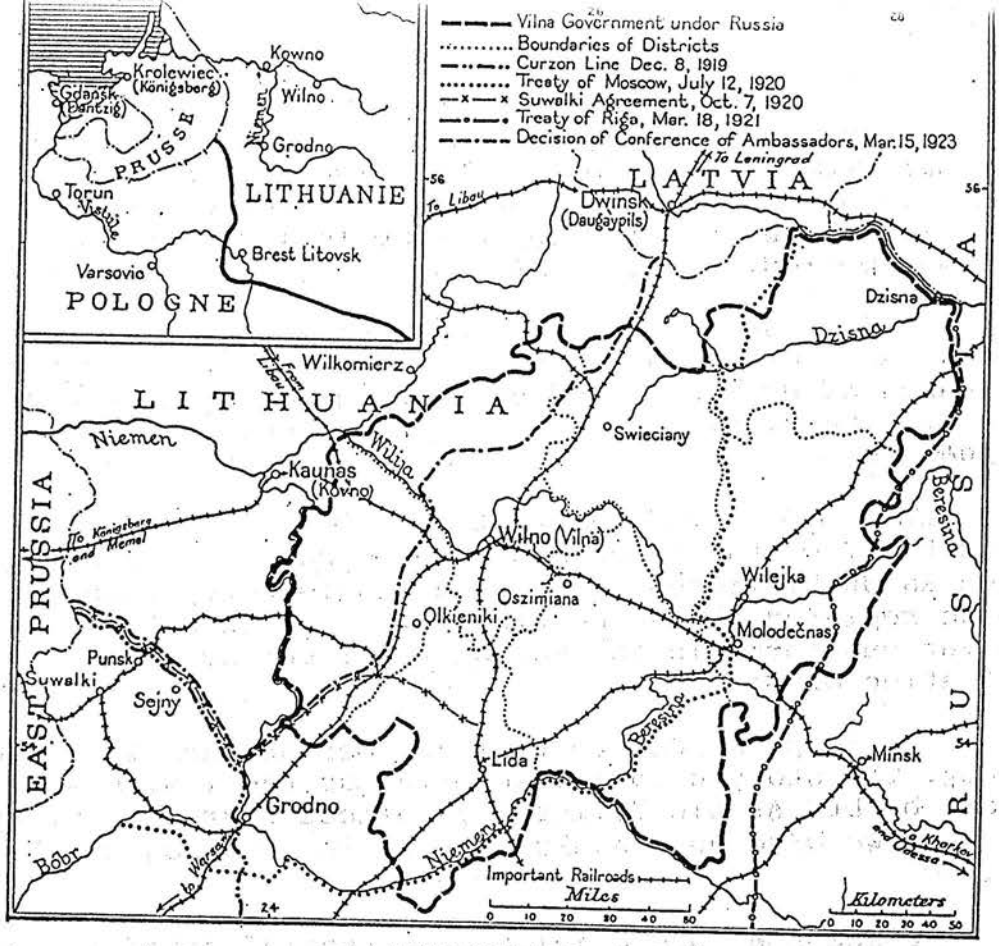
On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley, Aug. 16, 1997, the Giessen, Germany, newspaper recalled the occupant of the Hotel Grunewald in Bad Nauheim. Termed the "Koenig des Rock 'Roll, the president of the Elvis-Presley-Gesellschaft, Peter Kranzler, opened a CD- box holding the text and picture of Presley and the song he had composed, the "Bad Nauheim Medley."

Sergeant Presley had been stationed at the American Barracks in Friedberg while in the U.S. Army.

By Aug. 30 a Maxi-CD of "Nauheimer-Elvis-Hits" was introduced, in a ceremony which included an Elvis impersonator. The Elvis society in Germany counts over 2,500 members, with Friedberg and Bad Nauheim considered the center of their universe.

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THE VILNA AREA

Inset: Poland before the first partition (1772), from "Cartes historiques de la Pologne," J. DE LIPKOWSKI, La question polonaise (1914).

The Lithuanians also cite the Russian Police Enquiry of 1909, which, they say, while exaggerating for political purposes the number of Polish landed proprietors, gave only 15.27 per cent as Polish-speaking out of a population of 1,815,215 for the whole Vilna Government. They cite also DMOWSKI, The Polish Question (Paris, 1909), p. 37, as placing the Polish population of the province of Vilna at 25 per cent.

The Poles give the following table:

Vilna Territory, excluding the Lithuanian portions administered by the Government of Kovno and the Dzisna and Wilejka districts

	Lithuanians	*Poles*
1897 (Russian census)	17 per cent	9 per cent
1909 (Police Enquiry)	13	16
1916 (German census)	10	30 (50)
1919 (Polish census)	10	62

POLAND, Documents diplomatiques concernant les relations polono-lithuaniennes, Vol. II, p. 77. The figure (50) for the Poles in 1916 is explained therein by the following note: "Dans la statistique allemande de 1916 la population polonaise, pour trois districts seulement, a donné 30 pour-cent de l'ensemble de la population du pays de Wilno; par analogie, on peut conclure que, si l'on avait étendu le récensement aux deux autres districts, on aurait obtenu encore 20 pour-cent, ce qui aurait donné en tout, pour la statistique allemande, 50 pour-cent de Polonais dans le territoire de Wilno."

While both tables exclude the Dzisna and Wilejka districts, the Lithuanian figures include and the Polish figures exclude the portions of the Vilna Government administered at the time from Kaunas. The Russian census of 1897 and the Police Enquiry of 1909 were based on mother tongue; the Polish census of 1919 was based on nationality and religion.

[1] The German census of 1918 gave the total population of the city of Vilna as 139,247, those of Polish mother tongue as about 50 per cent, of Lithuanian mother tongue as about 1.9 per cent, the Jews as 41 per cent, and White Russians, 8 per cent. The Lithuanians give no statistics regarding the city of Vilna.

[2] For an account of the movement during the World War, see LADAS NATKEVIČIUS, Aspect politique et juridique du différend polono-lithuanien (Paris, 1930), pp. 19 *et seq.*

A map and chart were omitted from the September 1997 issue due to space considerations. It would be useful to reread that feature with the additional information before you. Several of the cities shown on the chart issued Notgeld, usually bi-lingual.

An almost neglected aspect of numismatics in which museums and universities can be involved is the emergency money issued between 1914 and 1947, Notgeld in German-speaking lands, but issued in some form in about 60 nations in that period.

The first Notgeld on record was issued even before World War I began, on July 31, 1914, when the Buergerliches Brauhaus of Bremen issued hectograph notes in values of 1, 2 and 2.50 Mark. Each note received a rubber stamp and signature.

Thus was born Notgeld, destined to be issued privately, by cities, by the government, to reach dizzying heights, as much as 80 Billionen Mark for a single note by Nov. 19, 1923. to be replaced by the Rentenmark. To an extent, it appeared in various forms in the World War II period. And the inflation of Germany was exceded in Hungary in 1946.

It is pointless to tell the Germans about emergency money. The story unfolded in print as the issues were being made, by Dr. Arnold Keller, by collector groups, by dealers. To them we give our thanks for the information available to us.

Perhaps a couple jokes from the inflation period will illustrate the era. A British citizen walks into a bank in Berlin, lays down a gold sovereign and asks, "How many German Mark will this buy?"

The teller turns around and says "Let's go home, boys; he just bought the bank."

And a traveler walks into the dining car on the train carrying two large suitcases when the Maitre D' hurries up to him and says "Sir, you cannot bring your luggage into the diner."

The traveler responds, "This is not my luggage; it is my purse."

Let us note some examples of how the German populace was affected by the almost-instant change shortage which occurred as the war began.

In the Rhineland city of Strassburg, buffeted between Germany and France over the centuries, at the earliest hint of any conflict, small change disappeared. Gold and silver coins were squirreled away by banks, merchants, householders.

How does a merchant give change for a 27-Pfennig purchase when 30 Pfennig in coinage is offered him? He can offer candy or gum valued at 3 Pfennig, which many did. If the customer did not accept that, all he could do would be to scribble on a piece of paper his name and the amount of credit due.

Given more time, he might include on his chit a date and the name of the town. In a few days, he would be able to run to a local printing shop and have credit chits printed for his customers.

Let me cite some outstanding examples of museum work with Notgeld, and some authors and cities who have given us notable works detailing Notgeld history.

In 1964 Albert Pick, a private collector of paper money of the world, was named by the Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechsel-Bank in Muenchen to be curator of a money museum, a post he held until 1985 and which is now in the capable hands of Frau Dr. Franzisca Jungmann.

Drawing on his experience and knowledge, plus a reasonable budget and encouragement of the bank, he brought the numismatic story to all of Bavaria. There are some 35 branches of the bank in the Land; on a regular basis a team from the museum brought display material to the branch banks, leaving it for a period, with suitable publicity material.

Local Notgeld was always part of the display, and Pick told me once that often, a local resident would say, "Oh, I have something that is not on display," and would provide it for the collection.

We can cite museums and universities doing excellent work in promoting numismatics: University of Tuebingen, with Dr. Jens-Uwe Rixen; Dr. Bogumil Sikorski in Pila; Dr. Paul Arnold in Dresden.

It has been estimated that some 3,600 places in Germany issued a form of Notgeld, from private and city issues, prisoner of war and civilian camps, to canteen issues, beer and telephone tokens, streetcar tokens, gas, water and electricity tokens (some of which showed up in circulation as coins) encased postage stamps, ship money; made of paper, metal, plastic, wood, leather, silk, linen, porcelain, aluminum and other materials.

With some 80 years behind us, these emergency notes have been used as wallpaper, started fires, redeemed by the issuing agencies and destroyed, lost in fire, flood and bombings.

It is only through the good offices of numismatic dealers, collectors and museums that there are survivors today.

There are other manners in which to show the extent of Notgeld issues. Using Dr. Keller as a source, he said there were 5,500 notes from 452 localities dated 1914; small denomination notes issues for circulation from 1916 to 1922 were from 3,658 places, totaling 36,000 notes.

Grossgeld, notes of one Mark or more, issued from 1918 to 1921, came from 579 places, a total of about 5,000 notes. Some 800 places issued 4,000 notes in denominations from 100 to 1,000 Mark in 1922; and for the 1923 inflation, 5,849 places issued at least 70,000 notes.

There were 600 locations which issued prisoner of war notes totaling 3,000 items, and 20 concentration camps with 90 notes in the 1935-1945 period.

So difficult was it to print just Reichsbank notes with constantly rising values in the 1923 period that some 30 paper mills and in addition to the Reichsdruckerei, there were 84 printing plants which had to work around the clock just to produce money, a costly effort that was soon recognized as costing more to produce than was the buying power of the money printed.

A total of 400,000 printing plates were used.
In that period, 10 Milliarden individual notes were printed, with a face value of 3,877 Trillion Mark (3,877 followed by 15 zeros!)

Everyone of these 3,600 places which issued Notgeld have a story to tell. What an opportunity for a graduate student seeking a useful thesis that involves economics, politics, marketing. The research might even be awaiting the students in their home towns or Kreises.

What an opportunity for museums to become mother hens to loan coin exhibits to banks, smaller museums or in other public places in the area they serve!

Towns which have had their Notgeld described in separate volumes include Apolda, Berlin, Bielefeld, Celle, Bad Dueben, Duisburg, Flensburg, Franzburg, Hameln, Jena, Kaiserslautern, Kassel, Konstanz and Trier, to name a few in my library.

Many cities would welcome the opportunity for a local city council, coin club, coin dealer, bank or merchant group to back publication of such a book.

And not just universities can make use of Notgeld as teaching aids. . Museums, perhaps too often bogged down in the ancient treasures of other cultures, might find many opportunities awaiting them in their own backyards, so to speak.

Few persons remain who can be considered primary sources of information. Those Buergerliches Brauhaus employees paid on July 31, 1914, are not likely to be with us today to recall the event. But there are contemporary newspapers and city council proceedings in archives. There are numismatic sources, the publications of dealers and societies; the collectors of today and a multitude of bibliographical sources.

This year we are observing the 83rd year since World War I began. It is not too late to retrieve this fascinating tale of emergency money, and to learn lessons from it.

These remarks were presented to the XII International Numismatic Congress held in Berlin, Germany, September 8-12. The event was sponsored by the International Numismatic Commission, whose first Congress was held in Brussels, Belgium, in 1891.

Poessneck July 31, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1037a $2*
Poessneck July 31, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1037 $2*
Poessneck July 31, 1921 25 (3), 50 (3), 75 (4) Pf L-1037c $7*
Poessneck ND 20 (3), 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (3) Pf L-1037d $7*
Poettmes ND 25, 50 Pf L-1038 $2.50*
Poppenbuettel/S-H July 1, 1921 50 (10) Pf L-1039 $7*
Potsdam Nov. 28, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-1040 $2*
Preetz April 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1041 $1.25*
Prien/Chiemgau ND 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1044 $2.50*
Pries-Friedrichsort ND 25, 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-1045 $5*
Prisdorf ND 25 Pf L-1046 $1.75*
Pritzwalk Feb. 25, 1922 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark L-1047 $2*
Proesdorf ND 25, 50 Pf P-S 2092 $3*
Pruem/Rheinland May 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1049b $8*
Putbus/Ruegen ND 75 Pf L-1051 $.65*
Pyritz/Pommern April 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1052b $3*
Pyritz/Pommern Nov. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-1053 Schecks $8.50*
Quedlinburg June 1, 1921 25, 50 (3)) Pf L-1057a $3*
Quedlinburg July 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1057b $4*
Quedlinburg April 22-23, 1922 50 (6) Pf L-1057c $4*
Quedlinburg April 22-23, 1922 50 (10) Pf L-1057d$7.50*
Quedlinburg ND 5+5 (10 Pf) L-1058 $.65*
Quedlinburg Land ND 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1059 $5*
Querfurt Aug. 24, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-1060 $3*
Quern Sept. 10, 1921 25 (3), 50 (3) Pf, 1 Mark L-1061 I $9*
Raa-Besenbek ND 20, 40, 60, 70, 80 Pf L-1062 $9*
Radolfzell Dec. 1918 10 Mark K-402b $5*
Randow Sept. 1, 1921 25 (4), 50 (4), 75 (4) Pf L-1065 $9*
Rastenberg Sept. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-1067 $4.50*
Rathenow May 1, 1917 5, 10 Pf P-S 2131b $2
Rathenow Nov. 12, 1918 5 Mark K-407 $4*
Rathenow ND 50 (2), 75 (2), 90 (2) Pf L-1069a $4.25*
Rathenow ND 50, 75, 80, 90 Pf L-1069b $2.50*
Ratzburg ND 50 Pf L-1071 $.65*
Recklinghausen Dec. 1, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-1073 $2.50*
Recklinghausen Aug. 8, 1923 1 Millionen Mark K-4460c $2.25
Recklinghausen Oct. 5, 1923 1 Milliarde Mark K-4459 $2.25
Rees 1921 50, 75 Pf, 2 Mark L-1074 $10*
Regensburg ND 1, 2 Pf P-S 2146b $1.50*
Regensburg 1918 25, 50 Pf P-S 2146a $3*
Regensburg Oct. 4- 8, 1918 5, 10, 20 Mark K-410 $6*
Regensburg Oct. 4- 8, 1918 20 Mark K-410 $2.25*
Regensburg Aug. 20, 1923 1 Millionen Mark K-4472c $3
Rehburg May 1, 1921 50 (8) Pf L-1077 $12.50*
Rehmen Aug. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (4) Pf L-1078 $4*
Rehna ND 25, 50 Pf L-1079 Reutergeld $1.50*
Reichenhall, Bad 1919 50 Pf P-S 2161a $2.50*
Reinerz Nov. 1, 1918 10 Pf P-S 2168a $1.25*
Reinerz Dec. 30, 1919 25, 50 Pf P-S 2167b $2.25*
Reinerz May 15, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2167c $2*
Reinerz, Bad June 1, 1921 10, 25 (6), 50 (6) L-1080a $12.50*
Rellingen ND 75 Pf L-1082 $2*
Remda/Thuer. July 1, 1921 20 (2), 30 (2), 50 (2) Pf L-1084 $4*
Remscheid April 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 2175e $2.50*
Renchen Nov. 1923 10 Milliarden Mark K-4538 $3
Rendsburg July 1, 1918 10, 50 Pf P-S 2176b $3

Reppen (Pzepen, Poland) Feb. 19, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2177 $2.50*
Rheinsberg/Mark ND 25 (4), 50 (4) 75 (4) Pf L-1089 b I $8*
Rickelshausen Oct. 22, 1923 50 Milliarden Mark K-4570 $3
Rieder/Ostharz Sept. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1091a $4
Rieder/Ostharz Sept. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1091b $4*
Rinteln Sept. 1917 5, 10 Pf P-S 2184a $5*
Rinteln Sept. 1917 50 Pf P-S 2184a $1.25*
Rinteln Oct. 25, 1918 5, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2184c $10*
Rinteln August 1920 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1095 $2*
Ritterhude 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-10096a $2.25*
Rochlitz ND (April 1917) 10, 50 Pf P-S 2185a $2.75
Rochlitz Nov. 1, 1918 5 Mark K-419 $3.50
Roda Sept. 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 2186e $2.25*
Roda Sept. 30, 1921 10, 25, 50 (6) Pf L-1097 $5.25*
Roda/Ilmenau Oct. 10, 1921 20, 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1098 $2.50*
Roebel ND 25, 50 Pf L-1101 Reutergeld $1.50*
Rohrbach Nov. 1917 10, 50 Pf P-S 2197 $3.25*
Ronneburg/Thuer. July 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2204 $1.25*
Ronneburg May 1, 1921 5 Pf L-1103 $1*
Rosenberg/West Prussia April 1, 1917 10, 50 Pf P-S 2211c $3*
Rosenheim/Bayern Feb. 16, 1921 5, 10, 50 (2) Pf L-1104 I First issue $10*
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Rossbach/Querfurt ND 50 Pf L-1105 $.65
Rossla/Kyffhaeuser July 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1106 $4*
Rostock Feb. 15, 1920 5, 10 Pf P-S 2219c $2.50*
Rostock ND 25, 50 Pf L-1108 Reutergeld $1.50*
Rotenburg/Hannover Jan. 1, 1921 25 Pf L-1109 $1.25*
Rothenburg/Tauber Oct. 31, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2226aIV $2*
Rothenburg/Tauber ND 1 Mark L-1110a $6.50*
Rothenburg/Tauber Feb. 1, 1921 L-1112a 10 Pf $.65*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1112b $4*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1112c $4*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 75 (4) Pf L-1112d $2.50*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 1 Mark (5) L-1111e $3.25*
Ruda/Oberschlesien Nov. 1918 1/2 Mark P-S 2230 $4
Rudelsburg ND 50 (3) Pf L-1113 $4*
Rudolstadt ND 50 (7) Pf L-1116a $4.50*
Rudolstadt Aug. 16, 1921 50 (4), 75 (4), 100 Pf L-1116b $7*
Ruegenwalde Oct. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2232a 5 Pf $1.25*
Ruegenwalde June 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2232d $2.50
Ruegenwalde Oct. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2232n $.75*
Ruegenwalde Oct. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2232p $.75*
Ruhla May 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 2235e $2.50*
Ruhla/Thuer. April 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1123 $20*
Ruedesheim/Rheingaukreis Nov. 28, 1919 10, 20, 50 Pf P-S 2180c $5*
Ruhpolding Oct. 19, 1920 5, 10 Pf P-S 2236 $3.75*

*Uncirculated
K-Kller catalogs; L-Lindman Serienscheine; P-S Pick-Siemsen

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