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The Fraktur

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REUTERGELD

As Martin Luther translated the Vulgate Bible into German, so too did Fritz Reuter set down into a written language Plattdeutsch, the Low German vernacular language spoken yet on the northern coastal areas of Germany and the off-shore islands.

Reuter was born in Stavenhagen, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Nov. ~~10~~ 7, 1810. After studying law at Rostock and Jena, in 1833 he was sentenced to death for high treason while a member of a student political club. The sentence was reduced to 30 years, released at the end of seven years by the good offices of the Duke of Mecklenburg.

After he married Luise Kunze in 1850, he was a tutor in Treptow, Pommerania. He later lived in Neubrandenburg, 1856-1863; he then moved to Eisenach, where he died on July 12, 1874.





The birthplace of Fritz Reuter is shown on the back of a Mark note, undated, issued by Stavenhagen. Reuter's portrait is on the face. The note was printed by Baerensrungsche Hofbuchdruckerei, Schwerin.

Notgeld issued by some of the towns already mentioned include an iron 20-millimeter coin from Stavenhagen with a facing bust of Reuter, undated; also, a 20.2 mm aluminum 50-Pfennig piece, also undated, with the facing bust.

A set of nine 50-Pfennig notes issued in the fall 1921 in Eisenach includes a facing portrait of Fritz Reuter and his signature plus one of his pithy quotations.

From Neubrandenburg a trio of 75-Pfennig notes, dated July 2, 1921, show the same face design, "Fritz Reuter im Ratskeller," and a quotation from him on the back. The notes were designed by Louis Koch, Halberstadt.

A Fritz Reuter quote appears on the back of a 25-Pfennig note of Doemitz/Mecklenburg, issue-dated June 1, 1920.

Not pertaining to Reuter but in the style of some of the Reutergeld is a six-note set of one Mark Values designed by Egon Tschirch, Rostock, one of the five designers of Reutergeld; the notes are undated but 1922 appears by the name of Tschirch.

An "Aushilfsschein" was issued in Stavenhagen Nov. 1, 1919, with the facing portrait of Reuter and a couple of his quotations.

An undated set of 25- and 50-Pfennig and one Mark notes was printed by Baerensrungsche Hofbuchdruckerei, Schwerin (owned by Wust) somewhat in the style of the Reutergeld. Some have control numbers, others do not. The one Mark note shows the home where Reuter was born.

The same printing plant produced 25- and 50-Pfennig notes, good to May 1, 1922, issued by Schwerin, with no reference to Reuter.

When it became the rage following World War I to fleece the collectors with colorful paper notgeld, Max Reinhold Wust, Schwerin, was a master. And he had a printing plant.

It was his scheme to produce 10, 25 and 50-Pfennig notes from each town, to be produced under the Reutergeld-Gesellschaft. The society would screen the designs submitted by artists.

Commission members included Professor Dr. Josephin, Schwerin, director of the Landesmuseum; Dr. Reisserscheid, conservator of the same museum; Mayor Weltzin, Schwerin; Director Siegmann, Rostock; and Wust.

Submitting winning art work were Erich Bentrup, Schwerin, an architect; Erich Koenemann, Schwerin, painter; Georg Schuetz, Schwerin, engraver; Egon Tschirch, Rostock, graphic artist; and Richard Zscheked, Schwerin, painter.

Throughout the series, the face of the notes carried local designs, a bit of history or local customs of the issuing town; on the back appeared words of wisdom written in Plattdeutsch by Fritz Reuter.

The set of 210 notes from 70 towns were issued in a single envelope. In several cases, the Reutergeld is the only "emergency" issue of a town. There were two printings of notes, resulting in minor color differences.

From Boltenhagen a 10 Pfennig note printed only in black is known. From Gnoien is a variety with each denomination overstamped.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Reference the Michael Schoene account in THE FRAKTUR, April 1989, of the meeting of American and Soviet troops in Torgau, Sachsen, on April 25, 1945, one reader writes us he and his mother were working on the hay crop as American troops entered the city, their American flags fluttering and the 50mm guns at the ready.

A variety of notgeld issues came from Torgau in the World War I period.

Following is a list of towns for which the artists submitted winning designs. In some cases, their signatures appear on the notes.

BENTRUP	KOENEMANN	SCHUETZ	TSCHIRCH	ZSCHEKED
Crivitz	Feldberg	Boltenhagen	Alt-Gaarz	Boizenburg
Doberan	Friedland	Dargun	Arendsee	Bruel
Gadebusch	Fuerstenberg	Gnoien	Brunshaupten	Dassow
Goldberg	Bad Kleinen	Grabow	Buetzow	Doemitz
Rehna	Mirow		Graal	Grevesmuehlen
Schwaan	Neubrandenburg	Guestrow	Heiligendamm	Hagenow
Sternberg	Neustrelitz	Krakow	Kroeplin	Kluetz
Tessin	Schoenberg	Ludwigslust	Laage	Luebtheen
Teterow	Stargard	Malchin	Muertiz	Luebz
Warin	Strelitz	Malchow	Neubukow	Marlow
Wismar	Wesenberg	Neuhaus	Nienhagen	Suelze
	Woldegk	Neukalen	Rostock	Wittenburg
		Neukloster	Wustrow	
		Parchim		
		Plau		
		Penzlin		
		Ribnitz		
		Roebel		
		Schwerin		
		Stavenhagen		
		Waren		
		Warnemuende		
		Zarrentin		

WALPURGIS NIGHT

Hallowe'en in April?

Indeed, witches fly from their covens in the Harz Mountains, longer a refuge than the witches of Salem, Eastwick or elsewhere in North America.

Dwight Musser has listed witches on paper notgeld, including the Harz mountain issues from Blankenburg, Braunschweig, Bad Harzburg, Ilsenburg, Neustettin, Schierke, Thale/Harz and Wernigerode. His address is P.O. Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537.

The event on April 30 is Walpurgis Night, nothing to do with All Saints Day, which is a Christian celebration.

Best known of these mythical mountain people is Faust, described by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and renowned in operas, including "Faust," by Charles Gounod, "Mefistofele," by Arrigo Boito; "Doktor Faust," by Ludwig Spohr; and a cantata, "The Damnation of Faust," by Hector Berlioz.

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On order is the newest catalog of Hartmut Schoenawa, "Das Papiernotgeld von Ostpreussen Westpreussen Posen," in German with estimated prices in West German deutschmark.

Notes of Danzig and Memel will be included in the soft-cover book, which has about 120 pages. Cost will be $15.50, including postage.

Interested readers may reserve copies in advance; invoices will accompany the book when available.

REASONS AND RATIONALE FOR COLLECTING NOTGELD

"Das Notgeld"
February 1928
By Dr. Arnold Keller

The following answer of the editor to a letter from a collector is perhaps of interest to a wider audience so it is being printed.

You write to me that the people you know there think that you are not right (in the head) because you collect notgeld. I gladly accede to your request to give you, by a few words on the reasons and rationale for collecting emergency money, the means with which you can perhaps better instruct the poeople you know.

First of all, the question is what is the principal reason people collect? That question does not at all involve what they collect.

The inclination to collect something occurs so often that one can certainly speak of an instinct residing in man; he must collect something. With it the collector creates an occupation with which he can fill his leisure hours, and thereby he removes himself from the bothers of his vocation.

The thinking man chooses a collecting area which dominates his spirit and can further educate him. Thus the nature-lover collects butterflies or insects or fossils, minerals, shells, plants; that is, objects in which he can observe the workings of nature in the present or past.

The man who is interested in foreign lands collects postcards, which at least enables him to travel in spirit, which in most cases he cannot do in person. The historian collects, for example, coins, which in all cases are records of past political and economic circumstances, many times indeed scientific tools of the highest value.

Do your acquaintances also find some fault with it if someone collects stamps, the avocation of a hundred thousand people? Why, then, just lack of understanding of notgeld, which is unfortunately so often belittled?

Notgeld is, as the name says, money which has been issued in times of need, mostly by places other than those which are allowed to do it legally. Next, it follows from that that notgeld too belongs to the realm of numismatics, even if, for the most part, notgeld appears in a modern paper dress.

What applies to coin collecting applies also to notgeld. It is a historical result of the war or troubles during which it appeared; thus the notgeld of the present is a guide to the World War in all its aspects, in all of the places touched by the war and the homeland, itself untouched but economically disordered.

The notgeld of 1914 reminds us by its fabric, text and saying of the excitement and enthusiasm of the first months of the war; the later fractional notes of the time of stubbornly holding on, of an economy of substitutes; the large denomination notes of 1918 of the revolution, the soldiers' councils; finally, the notes of 1922 and 1923 remind us of the inflation and the continually increasing decline of our exchange rate.

In their manyfold appearances these notes give us a direct picture of the desperate conditions of those times, a picture which cannot be packed into words. Perhaps later generations would not want to believe the reports of those times if incontrovertible proof were not provided by the surviving paper money of those times.

Therefore, the goal of the serious collector is to hand down to posterity an as many-sided as possible picture of the circulation of money during and after the war or, if he collects only in a special area, a complete picture of that area.

The activity of the private collector in this is the more indispensable since the state offices responsible for this collecting activity do not do their work with the necessary diligence, in any event not with the often passionate eagerness and the drive to discover of the private collector.

Collection formation can also be cultivated from other viewpoints than that of the history of the country or the national economy. The notes in their often very fine or artistic, paper-money-like manufacture positively demand to be collected. A passionless, spiritless man is he who looks only at the extrinsic value which must be realized before the note loses its value!

Are not the reasons which rule the stamp collector in his activity the same as those of the notgeld collector? The multiplicity of forms, delight in colors, the universality (for the idea that emergency money is not international is false) are the same as in stamps. Notgeld has likely remained in the background because it was not, like stamps, automatically spread throughout the world but for the most part remained in the place of its creation.

Notgeld can be collected because of the technique used in printing it, because of its artistic appearance (which none the less may count either for or against it), or because of the rich pictorial content. The entire lengthy history of Germany is found on emergency notes. Countless old customs are presented again, portraits of people, coats of arms, pictures of cities and landscapes of olden times and of new, so that a notgeld album can correctly be described as a historical and cultural picture book.

As in every other collecting area, so also in notgeld many collectors have asked about the market prices, which are very significant for rarities. Perhaps your acquaintances will first understand notgeld collecting when they hear tht a five-figure price has already been paid for a first class collection.

To be sure, a lot of notgeld brought together accidentally is not a collection; a collection requires passion and planned progress; the more complete a collection the higher its value.

A higher value of properly directed collecting activity lies in its showing economy. A serious collector trades off useless issues in order to put the saved money into his collection. If someone calls a collection dead capital he forgets that the pleasure obtained from the collection represents the interest on the principal tied up there.

And the money itself which is put into the collection is not, if it was spent carefully, lost, provided that one buys only from real professional notgeld dealers. I had the satisfaction, in the sale of the greatest collection I ever negotiated, of hearing that the amount which the sale of the collection produced was the same as the amount which the collector had spent for his collection during his 10 years of actively collecting.

The greatest part of his resources of that time was lost through the inflation; he retained only the money had had put into his collection!

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How would you have replied to the writer of the letter mentioned in the second paragraph? Do friends and fellow collectors believe you are not "right in the head?"

Readers of THE FRAKTUR have a 60-year perspective on the 1928 writer of the letter. Most readers live in the USA, speak English and have the experience of World War II to give additional breadth to the hobby.

Responses, one page or less, will be printed in forthcoming issues.

And wouldn't this letter be an ideal program for a coin club meeting? Let us know if you use it this way.

THE FRAKTUR Pricelist
May 1989

Doemitz June 1, 1920 25 Pf K-620 Reuter quote $1*
Kleinen„ Bad to May 31, 1922 50 Pf Reutergeld $.50*
Oberdorla/Vogtei 1918 1/2 Mark $1.25
Oberglogau July 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf K-799a; L-955I $1.75*
Oberlind 1920 50 Pf $1*
Oberndorf/N April 1918 50 Pf $1.25*
Ochsenfurt/Main 1919 50 Pf $1*
Oebiskelde-Kaltendorf Feb. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-809I; L-965I $.50*
Oeynhausen, Bad ND 50 PF K-1317; L-968b $.50*
Oelsnitz/V to Dec. 31, 1918 10, 50 Pf. $1.25*
Osterholz April 11, 1921 25, 50 Pf K-2001b $1.75*
Osterwieck/Harz Jan. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-838 $1*
Otterndorf May 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf. K-840a $2.50*
Ottmachau Jan. 2, 1921 50 Pf K-841 $.75*
Paderborn July 31, 1921 50 Pf (4), 1 Mark L-1001 $8*
Paderborn Nov. 10, 1921 50, 75 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-1002a $2*
Paderborn Nov. 10, 1921 50, 75 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-1002b $2.25*
Paderborn Nov. 10, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-1002c $2.50*
Paderborn Nov. 10, 1921 25, 50, (2) 75 (2); 1 (2), 2 (2) Mark L-1002e black $5.25*
Paderborn Nov. 10, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf; 1 (2), (2) Mark L-1002f brown $5.50*
Papenburg Nov. 14, 1921 50, 75 Pf K-845; L-1003 Ships $2*
Papenburg Nov. 14, 1921 50, 75 Pf K-845; L-1003 Postman $2*
Parchim to May 31, 1922 10, 25 Pf K-846; L-1004 Reutergeld $1*

Parey to April 1, 1922 50 Pf K-847e; L-1006d Issue A $1*
Pasewalk Oct. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-850I; L-1008; $2.50*
Patschkau 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf; 1 Mark K-853 $3*
Petersdorf Oct. 30, 1914 10 Pf K-286a $4*
Philippsthal Oct. 1, 1921 K-859 1 Mark (7) $4*
Plathe (1922) 10, 25 Pf K-860; L-1019 $2
Plaue Oct. 30, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf K-862; L-1021 $1.50*
Ploen 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf; 1 Mark K-863a; L-1023a $2.50*
Ploen 1921 50 (6) Pf K-863b; L-1023b $6*
Ploen 1921 50 (6) Pf K-863; L-1023c $5.50*
Poessneck July 31, 1921 25 (3), 50 (2), 75 Pf K-866c Hermann & Dorothea $6.25*
Poessneck 25, 50, 75 Pf K-866b "Wo das Regiment" $2.50*
Poessneck 20 (3), 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf K-866d; L-1025D Leather on 20, 50 Pf $4
Poettmes (1921) 50 Pf K-867 $1.25*
Poettmes (1921) 25, 50 Pf K-867; L-1026 $1*
Poppenbuettel July 1, 1921 50 (10) Pf K-868 $6*
Potsdam Nov. 28, 1921 50 Pf (6) K-869; L-1028g $4*
Pritzwalk Feb. 25, 1922 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf; 1 (2), 1.50 (2), 2 (2) Mark K-875 $6*
Proessdorf to Dec. 31, 1922 10, 25, 50 Pf K-2092 $3*
Pruem May 1, 1921 10 Pf K-877a $2.50
Ribnitz to Feb. 15, 1922 10, 25 Pf Reutergeld K-914 $2*
Roessel to Feb. 28, 1922 25, 50 Pf K-923; L-1088 Reutergeld $2*
Rostock 1922 1 Mark Artist Egon Tschirch, style of Reutergeld 1*
Stavenhagen ND 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark K-1039aI; L-1213a Reuter's birth house shown on back of 1 mark; also his portrait $2*
Stavenhagen to Dec. 31, 1921 10, 25 PF K-1039b; L-1213b; Reutergeld $2*
Strelitz, to May 31, 1922 10 Pf Reutergeld $.50*
Waren/Mueritz to Dec. 31, 1921 10, 50 Pf Reutergeld $1*
Wittenburg to April 30, 1922 50 PF K-1199a Reutergeld $.75

Reutergeld

Uncirculated sets of Reutergeld are available from Alt-Gaarz, Arendsee, Crivitz, Doberan, Dassow, Fuerstenberg, Feldberg, Gadebusch, Gnoien, Goldberg, Graal, Grabow, Greves-muehlen, Gadebusch, Hagenow, Heiligendamm, Malchin, Rostock, Rehna, Silverberg, Stargard, Sternberg, Strelitz, Schwerin, Schoenberg, Sulze, Warin, Wesenberg, Wismar, Wittenburg, Woldegk, Warnemuende, and Zarrentin. Average prices from $2 to $3.50 per set.

*Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs
L-Kai Lindman, "Das Deutsche Notgeld: Katalog der Serienscheine, Spendenquittungen und Bausteine 1918-1922"
P-S Pick-Siemsen catalog
Please do not send cash with order; you will be invoiced
THE FRAKTUR, P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945

In the late 1930s an emergency money club was organized in New York City. Extracts from "The Numismatist" trace its progress.

September 1936

Through the kind cooperation of Howland Wood, curator of the American Numismatic Society, New York City, an attempt is being made to organize the collectors of Notgeld with the view of facilitating exchange of specimens, as well as their other mutual interests and problems, and to see whether they can revive an interest in this medium. It is suggested that collectors and holders of these war and post war issues (bills and coins) communicate with Walter S. Child, 509 Madison Avenue, Room 1606, New York City.

November 1936

What is said to be the first meeting of collectors of notgeld (emergency money) in this country took place at 325 East 57th St., New York City, the apartment of Walter S. Child, on Oct. 14. In order to facilitate the exchange of duplicates, notes and views, as well as with the assembling of a library in mind, it was decided to apply for a charter for the Emergency Money Club, whose officers will be Walter S. Child, Fred M. Howard and Milo Barry.

January 1937

The recently organized International Emergency Money Club, which has just joined the A.N.A., is now holding its meetings regularly on the second Wednesday of each month at the apartment of its secretary, Walter S. Child, at 325 East 57th St., New York.

The December meeting was well attended and, its official business done, much interesting and valuable data and information was exchanged. Lots of duplicates, originating from members or others, are now being circulated among the growing number of members.

Among those present at the meeting, as well as from the members throughout the United States, great pleasure is being expressed that there now exists a collectors' club especially and exclusively featuring emergency money. As one correspondent put it, "I have been waiting for just such an organization for the last 14 years."

The office address of the secretary is 509 Madison Ave., New York City, Room 1606.

TO BE CONTINUED