The Fraktur

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SEPARATISTS

Separatist money in Germany in 1923 is a mirror image, one might say, of the turmoil of World War I and the politics of its aftermath.

The collector is given a geographical tour of events through these issues from Oct. 1, 1923, to Jan. 9, 1924, though most ceased with the introduction of the Rentenmark on Nov. 19, 1923.

Many collectors concentrate on the colorful series notes of the 1920-1921 period, mostly issued for collectors at a profit. On the other hand, the inflation notes which saw actual use and are seldom found in uncirculated condition, were the 1922-1923 issues by many German cities.

Varieties were caused by the constant fueling of the inflation flame. Also, for the collector seeking at least one note from as many places as possible, the 1923 inflation notes offer the greatest source of many name places, and often, the greatest challenge. Reasons for the scarcity include redemption policies and as the notes became valueless, they were often overprinted, later used as wall paper or burned.

And in the stressful economic times, few set out to collect them.

To the Americans, the enemy was "Germany." But even within Germany, from 1914 onward, there were dramatic, but often subtle, stories of social, economic and political events of opposition to the war, to those in power, and after the war, an almost unified resistance to occupation forces.

In Berlin there was activity by the Spartacists; in Bavaria, Communist pockets; and as early as 1919, a Separatist movement headed by H. Adam Dorten, who led unsuccessful riots in Wiesbaden and Koblenz.

France and Belgium supported the Rheinische Republik, proclaimed on June 1, 1919, in Wiesbaden, naming Dr. H. Allen Dorten Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The area of greatest opposition, and area of the Separatist notes, was the Rhineland, bordering France. And it was the French who occupied the area. Marshall Ferdinand Foch was an outspoken proponent of the buffer state. Separatist activity even spilled east of the Rhine River, generally considered the boundary of French occupation.

Reparations due France under the Treaty of Versailles sparked the events. On Dec. 22, 1922, Germany advised the Reparations Commission that it could not make a delivery of timber called for under the treaty. On Dec. 27, they said they could not deliver 140,000 telegraph poles. And on Jan. 9, 1923, coal shipments were not made.

.On Jan. 11, French and Belgian troops under General Degoutte occupied the Ruhr, an area some 28 by 60 miles, the industrial heartland of Germany.

On Jan. 9, 1923, the U.S. dollar would buy 10,000 German Mark; on Jan. 30, the exchange was 49,000 Mark for a dollar.

While the Germans were divided, even at the highest levels, of what course to pursue, the general response was to do nothing. Passive resistance brought all economic activity to a halt.

Fueling the unrest was inflation, keeping 300 paper factories working day and night, 150 printing firms with 2,000 presses working just to produce the inflation notes.

The formal declaration of the Rheinische Republik by the Separatists (again!) came on Oct. 21, 1923, in Aachen. The following day groups organized in Wiesbaden, Trier and Dueren; later in Mainz and Koblenz.

Civil unrest was exemplified by events in Duesseldorf. Rioters deliberately fired into a crowd; police came to fight the Separatists; the French came to disarm the police.

Dr. Dorten of Bad Ems took the title Generalbevollmaechtigte of the Separatists; his town commissioner Kaffine signed Separatist notes in Bad Ems.

On Oct. 25, Dorten and Joseph Matthes set up a government in Coblenz, Matthes to hold power in the north, Dorten in the south. Later, power was centralized in General Mertz.

Dr. Walterhoff was to be Minister of Finance, and he considered a Rentenbank to issue 300 Million Mark ℳ backed by bonds issued against real property, similar to the plan instituted in Germany after Nov. 19. 1923.

Also on Walterhoff's drawing board were designs of 5, 10 and 25-Pfennig notes of the Rheinischen Republik and goldmark issues of one-half, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 100-goldfranken.

The British ministry objected to backing of the Separatists by Belgium, and on Nov. 4, this assistance was withdrawn, weakening the Separatist cause.

On the night of Nov.4-5. 1923, Dr. Dorten, Heinz and Orbis marched in the Pfalz. On Nov. 10-11 they were in Speyer where they established the headquarters of the movement. The name given was the Pfaelzisch Republik in Verbande der Rheinischen Republik. The leader of the Regieruing der Autonomen Pfalz was Herr Orbis, helped by Matthes and Joseph Smeets.

Smeets published a newspaper in Cologne, "die Rheinische Republik." H.T. Allen, in "The Rhineland Occupation," published in 1927, said, "Smeets was a German of questionable reputation who had been incarcerated by the Belgians, but had since entered into more or less friendly relations with the French authorities."

Named finance minister was Johann Wilhelm Novak, who signed many Separatist notes.

In "Speyer Money History," published in 1969 by Helfried Ehrends, it was noted that Novak's monetary issues came from Speyer's Reichsbanknebenstelle. Early issues of Notgeld of the Kreisgemeinde Pfalz were used by lining out existing signatures with red ink and adding Novak's signature.

The Separatist government decreed that office personnel had to take the notes signed by Novak as their pay.

The Republik Autonome Pfalz later issued notes. On Nov. 11, 1923, a five-rappan note was issued in Speyer by the Rheinische Republik -- Autonome Pfalz.

Hermann Krause tells of the background of the rappen denomination. A Rabe is a black bird. Its head appears in the

coat of arms of the town of Freiburg/Breisgau. In the 12th and 13th centuries, a one-sided small silver coin was called a "Raben-Kopf-Heller," from which came "Rappen," the current Swiss denomination for fractional coinage.

On Jan. 9, 1924, Separatists in Pirmasens issued a billion-Mark note, good to Feb. 24, 1924. On that same day G. Gedye told of an event in a hotel in Speyer. "I was just finishing dinner when four young men followed the waiter into the room. At the table opposite me sat Heinz, who was now dignified by the title of President of the Autonomous Palatinate, together with other members of his dummy cabinet.

"At the next table sat a visitor registered in the hotel as 'Dr. Weiss.' As the waiter left in search of a table for the young men, 'Dr. Weiss' sprang to his feet, flinging his chair to the ground with a crash, and pointing a Mauser at the table where the Separatist cabinet was sitting, bellowed in stentorian tones: 'Hands up! Everyone stand to the wall.'

"In a flash the four young men had surrounded the table indicated by his revolver. The Separatists sprang up and fumbled for their own weapons, but before they could draw them half a dozen shots rang out. Heinz had barely risen to his feet when a bullet passed through the back of his head. Two other men of his company tottered forward to the next table and fell, blood streaming from their faces.

"One of the young men put a hand to the light switch. 'Ladies and gentlemen, we apologize for the shock we have been obliged to give you. It was the only way of settling the score with the traitors who have betrayed our country. No one else will be touched. Long live united Germany.'

"Five bodies lie in their blood. Four very dead, and then the fifth gets up, face streaming blood. 'Thank you so much. This is a nice way to treat a man who only came to Speyer this morning to sell shirts. I believe I have lost two teeth.'"

With the assassination of Heinz, the Separatist movement had almost collapsed by the end of the month. Gedye concluded his remarks by saying "And perhaps that is the source of the term for the Separatists, the 'revolver republic."

The movement concluded with violence in other areas. Remnants of followers in Aachen fired in a crowd and killed a child of three; lynching followed. In Pirmasens, on Feb. 13, 1924, Separatists fired on a crowd from the city hall. Angry citizens set the building on fire, roasting the occupants.

Writing in "The Weimar Chronicle, Prelude to Hitler," Alex de Jonge wrote "Separatism never had any real credibility, except to the French and of course, the German nationalists, who could whistle up storms of popular sympathy by pointing at yet another way in which France sought to humiliate and destroy a Germany that had been betrayed but never beaten."

On Jan. 28, 1924, the tax office of Speyer was raided by Separatist elements, when 4,000 billion Mark in inflation money was seized, according to A. Kimmel. The inflation money had been exchanged for the current Rentenmark, and was scheduled for burning.

Officials of the Separatist government took the seized inflation money back to the treasury office of the town of Speyer, turning it in for redemption a second time, and obtaining for their use good Rentenmark.

Except for recognizable signatures on inflation notes issued by Separatists, it is difficult to distinguish from

other inflation notes. To add to the mystery, Separatists led by Novak, on Nov. 8, 1923, entered a printing firm in Neustadt/Haardt (now Neustadt/Weinstrasse) and "continued" the printing of Pfalz notes with town name Speyer, Keller 4286a-e, in huge quantities.

If that is confusing, ponder the notes bearing the Novak signature, apparently not provided by Novak but other "collectors" who thought such souvenirs should be shared, more properly termed fantasies (Speyer Oct. 1, 1923).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, H.T. "The Rhineland Occupation" Indianapolis, 1927
Coffing, Courtney L. "Bank Note Reporter," June 1986
DeJonge, Alex "The Weimar Chronicle Prelude to Hitler" London 1978
Dorten, H.A. "The Rhineland Movement," "Foreign Affairs," April 1925
Fengler, Heinz "Geldscheinentwuerfe der Separatisten fuer die geplante Rheinische Republik 1923," " Der Geldscheinsammler" 6/89
Keller, Dr. Arnold "Das Notgeld der deutschen Inflation 1923" Berlin 1954
Hoare, W.W. "The Separatist Movement in the Rhineland, 1918-1924" Chicago 1949
Weber, Friedrich W. "Pfaelzer Franken Pfaelzer Dollars" Nordpfaelzer Geschichtsverein 1975

SEPARATIST CATALOG

Andernach
97g Oct. 27, 1923 Stadt — 5 Milliarden Mark
97h. Nov. 3, 1923 Stadt — 20 Milliarden Mark
Notes signed: Leineweber
Face value of Separatist notes issued by Andernach and Mayen was 100,000 Billionen Mark

Berncastel-Cues
378f. Oct. 31, 1923 Stadtkasse — 50 Milliarden Mark
378g. Nov. 13, 1923 Stadtkasse — 1 Billionen Mark

Bingen
425g-h Nov. 5, 1923 Kreisamt — 100 Milliarden Mark
500 Milliarden Mark
1 Billionen Mark
5 Billionen Mark
Notes signed: Schorn

Classified Advertising

DESERT STORM propaganda surrender leaflets, artillery delivered. Interesting souvenirs, two-sided. Three different, $3; two sets, $5. George Boyce, 1540 Yachtmans Way, Gulf Breeze, Fla. 32561

Dueren

1138p. Oct. 15, 1923 Stadt	5 Milliarden Mark
	20 Milliarden Mark
1139a. Oct. 29, 1923 Kreis	10 Milliarden Mark
	25 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
1139b. Unprinted back	10 Milliarden Mark
	25 Milliarden Mark
1139c. Undated Kreis	5 Milliarden Mark
	25 Milliarden Mark
1139d. Undated Kreis	25 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
1139e. Undated Kreis	25 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
	100 Milliarden Mark

Duisburg

1179t. Oct. 26, 1923 Stadt	10 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark

Fantasy note: 500 Billionen Mark

1179u. ND Stadt	25 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
	100 Milliarden Mark

1179v. Sept. 15, 1923
Overprinted in Ziegler Collection, half completed
one side, 25 Milliarden Mark
both sides, 25 Milliarden Mark

Ems, Bad

1354a. Oct. 27, 1923 Stadt	10 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
1354b. Oct. 27, 1923 Stadt	100 Milliarden Mark
1354c. Nov. 3, 1923 Stadt	500 Milliarden Mark
1254d. Nov. 6, 1954 Stadt	1 Billionen Mark
	10 Billionen Mark

(above two on thick paper)

1354e. Nov. 6, 1923 Stadt	10 Billionen Mark

(thin paper)

Gross-Gerau

1945b. Nov. 1, 1923 Kreis	500 Milliarden Mark
1945c. Nov. 14, 1923 Kreis	1 Billionen Mark
	2 Billionen Mark
	5 Billionen Mark

Kreuznach und Meisenheim

2814d. Oct. 15, 1923 Kreis und Stadt	1 Billionen Mark
	5 Billionen Mark

Face value of Separatist Notes issued: 160,000 Billionen Mark

Ludwigshafen

Rheinischen Republik	5 Billionen Mark

Mainz

3423o. Oct. 8, 1923 Stadt	1 Milliarden Mark
	5 Milliarden Mark
	20 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
	100 Milliarden Mark
	200 Milliarden Mark

Mainz

3423p. Oct. 8, 1923	100 Milliarden Mark
	200 Milliarden Mark
	500 Milliarden Mark
	1 Billionen Mark
	5 Billionen Mark
3423q. Oct. 8, 1923	1 Billionen Mark
	5 Billionen Mark

Mayen

3487t. Nov. 6, 1923	20 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
	100 Milliarden Mark
	1 Billionen Mark
	10 Billionen Mark

Pirmasens

4313ff. Jan. 9, 1924	1 Billionen Mark
	5 Billionen Mark

St. Goarshausen

4717d-n. Oct. 22, 1923

Many varieties in watermarks, size and color of control numbers, paper thickness and color of underprinting

	5 Milliarden Mark
	10 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
	100 Milliarden Mark
	200 Milliarden Mark
	500 Milliarden Mark
	1 Billionen Mark
	2 Billionen Mark
	5 Billionen Mark
	10 Billionen Mark
	20 Billionen Mark
4717o. Nov. 7, 1923 Kreis	1 Billionen Mark

Speyer

Pfalz County Government

4286f. Oct. 1, 1923 B Prefix	1 Billionen Mark

Signed by Novak

Fantasty denominations of this date, with signature of Novak, issued by collectors to bilk collectors included:

	10 Millionen Mark
	10 Milliarden Mark
	20 Milliarden Mark
	50 Milliarden Mark
	100 Milliarden Mark
	500 Milliarden Mark

Nov. 11, 1923 Rheinische Republik, Autonome Pfalz
5 Rappen



Horb/N Dec. 1918 50 Pf P-S 1016 $1
Horn/Lippe June 1921 50 Pf L-610aII $.65*
Horneburg/Unterelbe May 1, 1921 25 Pf L-612 $.65*
Hoym/Anhalt May 17, 1921 5+5, 25, 50 (6) Pf L-616 $4.75*
Husbyholz July 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-620 Plebiscite $4*
Husum ND 50 Pf L-621 II 50 Pf $.65*
Idar ND 50 Pf P-"S 1020 fold $.60
Idstein ND 25, 50 Pf P-S 1021 $1.50*
Igelshieb April 1, 1921 25 Pf L-624 $.65*
Ilmenau/Thur. Jan. 1. 1921 10, 20, 25, 50 Pf L-625a $2.50*
Ilmenau/Thur. 1921 50 (6) Pf L-625b $4
Ilsenburg June 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf Set L-626b witches Wildman $2.50*
Immenstadt/Allgaue April 1, 1918 10, 50 Pf P-S 1024c $6*
Insterburg ND 2.50 Mark Scheck L-627 Konto R $.60*
Iserlohn/Westfalen July 1, 1921 1 Mark (4) L-629 $10*
Itzehoe Oct. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 1030c $3*
Itzehoe Aug. 2, 1920 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-631a $4*
Itzehoe ND 25, 50 Pf L-631b $1.25*
Jakobsberg Nov. 5, 1921 1 Mark L-634 $.60*
Jarmen/Pomm. June 4, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1033 $1.50*
Jena March 1, 1917 10 Pf P-S 1039a $.65*
Jena May 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 (3), 75 (3) Pf Set L-638b $5
Jena Dec. 1921 50 (6) Pf set L-635 Fuchsturm folds $7.50
Jerichow Jan. 1, 1921 25 Pf L-640 $.60*
Jerichow July 1, 1921 1 Mark L-640b $.60
Jessen/Halle ND 10, 25 Pf P-S 1045 $1.25*
Jessnitz 1921 25, 50 (2) Pf L-641a $1.75*
Jeven/Oldenburg ND 1, 1.50 Mark L-644 Schecks $1.25*
Johannisburg/Ostpr. Oct. 1, 1920 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-645 $2.50*
Jueterbog April 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 1048d $1*
Jueterbog April 8, 1920 25 Pf P-S 1048f $1.25*
Jueterbog Oct. 1, 1920 25, 50 (2), 60, 70, 80, 90 Pf L-646 $4*
Juist July 4, 1919, 10, 25 Pf; April 1, 1920, 50 Pf P-S 1049
Island in North Sea $2.25
Kahla 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 1054g 5, 10, 50 Pf $2*
Kahla April 30 10, 25, 50 Pf L-648a Walpurgis $4*
Kahla July 1, 1922 50 (6), 75 (6) Pf L-649 Sportverein $30*
Kahla Aug. 15, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-650b 6pt star, lines $2*
Kahla ND 25, 50, 75 Pf L-650c $1.50
Kahla Aug. 15, 1921 25, 50, 75 L-650d Porcelain $2*
Kahla Sept. 15, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-650e $2*
Kahla Nov. 1, 1921 75 Pf L-650g $.65*
Kahla Nov. 20, 1921 50 Pf L-650h $.65*
Kahla Dec. 1, 1920 75 (3) Pf L-650i $4
Kaiserslautern Sept. 20, 1923 500 Millionen Mark $2
Kallies July 15, 1919 10 Pf P-S 1056 $1*
Kaltennordheim Sept. 1, 1919 25, 50 Pf $1.25
Kaltennordheim Nov. 20, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 1057c $2.25*
Kamen/Westfalen April 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1058d $1*
Kamenz Nov. 15, 1918 5 Mark K-243 $4*
Kamenz Jan. 1, 1921 10, 50 Pf P-S 1059d $1.25*
Kappeln July 6, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-659 $2.75*
Karlsruhe April 22, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1067 $1*
Katzhuette Dec. 15, 1920 20, 25, 50 Pf P-S 1082 $2.75*

Keitum/Sylt ND 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-666b $4*
Kellinghusen April 1921 50 Pf L-669b $1.25*
Kemberg Nov. 1, 1918 5 Pf P-S 1088 $.65*
Kempen Aug. 1, 1923 100,000 Mark K-2605a $4
Kevelaer June 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-671 $1.75*
Kiel Feb. 1, 1917 50 Pf P-S 1092b $.75*
Kiel Jan. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 1092d $.65*
Kiel Oct. 15, 1918 5, 10 Mark K-249 $4.50
Kiel Sept. 10-18, 1921 80 Pf L-677 $1.25
Kirchheim/Teck Sept. 19, 1918 50 Pf P-S 1101b $2*
Kirn/Nahe Sept. 9, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1103e $1.30
Kissingen, Bad 1920 50 Pf P-S 1104d $.65*
Kitzingen/Main Aug. 1920 50 Pf P-S 1105m $1
Kitzingen/Main ND 50 (5) Pf L-682 $5*
Kitzingen/Main Feb. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf P-S 1105u $1.25*
Kleinen, Bad ND 10, 25 Pf L-685 Reutergeld $1.25*
Kloster Zinna Sept. 7, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-688 $1.25*
Kluetz ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-689 Reutergeld $2.25*
Kneitlingen July 1, 1921 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf; 1 Mark (2) L-690 $3.50*
Koberg March 3, 1921 20, 50 Pf L-693 $1.25*
Koeln June 1, 1918 25 Pf BaV P-S 1114f $.40
Koeln May 1, 1920 10 (K31) 20 (BaVI) Pf P-S 1114i $1
Koeln Oct. 1, 1920 10 Pf C32 P-S 11141 $.40
Koeln Nov. 3, 1920 10 Pf A35 P-S 1114m $.40
Koeln Jan. 12, 1922 50 Pf L-697 I $1.30*
Koeln Jan. 12, 1922 50 (2) Pf L-697 II $2.50*
Koeln Feb. 1, 1923 10,000 Mark K-314f, i $2
Koeln July 2, 1923 50,000 Mark K-2684b $2
Koeln Aug. 1, 1923 500,000 Mark K-2684e $2
Koeln Aug. 1, 1923 2,000,000 Mark K-2684e $2
Koeln Aug. 9, 1923 19,000,000 Mark K-2684i $2
Koeln Aug. 15, 1923 5,000,000 Mark K-2684p $2
Koeln Aug. 15, 1923 50,000,000 Mark K-2684r $2
Koeln Aug. 24, 1923 20,000,000 Mark K-2684p $2
Koeln Sept. 10, 1923 100,000,000 Mark K-2684w $2.25
Koeln Sept. 14, 1923 200,000,000 Mark K-2684z $2
Koeln Sept. 1, 1923 1,000,000 Mark Schloessinger & Co K-2702 $2.25
Koeln-Dellbrueck ND 25, 50 (2) Pf L-699 $5
Koeln-Mulheim ND 50 Pf L-700 $.50
Koeln-Mulheim und Wupperfuerth Oct. 21, 1922 500 Mark K-318 $3.50
Koenigsee March 26, 1921 10 Pf L-707 II $3.25*
Koenigshuette March 20, 1921 25 Pf Plebiscite L-706 $.75*
Koenigswinter July 15, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 7i5 (2) Pf L-710 $4*
Koenigswinter Nov. 1, 1921 50 (7) Pf L-709 $4.50*

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

Please refer to THE FRAKTUR, October 1991, page 6, for books and maps. Since then, we have increased our supply of maps, particularly from the former DDR and German cities.

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