CHRISTMAS NOTGELD

A Check List of Notgeld With Christmas Themes

Bolkenhain	50 Pf.		Rev. Bearded man with Christmas tree. Stars and branches in border.
Goldberg	25 Pf.	1918 -31 Dec 1920	Rev. Last of seven Goldberg citizens on Christmas Eve 1553.
Gross-Breitenbach	50 Pf.	ND	Rev. Craftsman making gifts, children with gifts under tree on Christmas.
Kahla	50 Pf.	20 Nov 1921 -31 Dec 1921	Obv. Pine branches, Christmas candles. Rev. Traditional nativity scene.
	50 Pf.	as above	Rev. Angels appear unto shepherds.
	50 Pf.	as above	Rev. Shepherds visit manger.
	50 Pf.	as above	Rev. Adoration of the Magi.
	50 Pf.	as above	Rev. The flight into Egypt.
	50 Pf.	as above	Rev. Christmas tree above landscape.
Langeln		ND	Obv. Stylized Christmas tree.
	25 Pf.	-31 Dec 1921	Rev. All have elf and different scenes from Christmas play.
	25 Pf.	as above	
	50 Pf.	as above	
	50 Pf.	as above	
	75 Pf.	as above	
	75 Pf.	as above	
Lauscha	50 Pf.	1918	Rev. Christmas tree ornaments.
	50 Pf.	1920	Obv. Tree branch, ornaments.
	50 Pf.	1921	Obv. Tree, ornaments. Rev. Glass-blower making ornaments.
Neustadt (Sachsen-Coburg	50 Pf.	1 Dec 1918	Rev. St. Nicholas carrying toys.
Possneck	25 Pf	ND (1921)	Rev. Carolers singing in snow.
	75 Pf.	ND (1921)	Rev. Colored Christmas lights.
Schneeberg	Pf.		Rev. Christmas angel with candles.
	Pf.		Rev. Miner with candle.
Schwarzenberg	50 Pf.	31 Dec 1918	Obv. Man holding two candles.
Sonneberg	50 Pf.	20 Feb 1920	Rev. St. Nicholas, Christmas tree, toys.
	10 Pf.	21 Jun 1921	Obv. Small St. Nicholas with toys.
Steinheid	50 Pf.	31 Dec 1920	Obv. Branch with Christmas ornaments.
Stutzerbach	Set of six notes		All show different steps in glass-making. Not Christmas themes but says "Issued Christmas 1921."



The collecting of notgeld by theme or topic is subject to individual preference and interpretation. Universal agreement is not to be expected.

In the United States a wreath has traditionally been a symbol of Christmas, especially when made of pine or holly. Hermann Krause points out that in Germany it is merely a symbol of celebration that may be displayed on various occasions. Krause maintains that a note is not truly thematic unless it was so designed and understood to be so by the city of issue. The following are items that have been listed as Christmas notes by some collectors but may not have been considered so originally.

Meiningen	50 Pf. 15 May 11920	Obv. Wreath.
Prisdorf	six diff. ND	Obv. Pine tree.
Treuchtlingen	50 Pf. ND	Obv. Christmas festoon?
		Rev. Festoon, wreaths, eagle, wreath.

The following are AUSTRIAN NOTGELD:

Bruck	40 Heller 15 Jan 1921	Rev. Ogre who visits bad children on Christmas.
	80 Heller as above	Rev. as above.
	1/2 Krone as above	Rev. St. Nicholas, toys, angels.
	60 Heller as above	Rev. as above.
	75 Heller as above	Rev. Children dancing, Christmas themes.
	90 Heller as above	Rev. as above.
Oberndorf	10 Heller - 30 Dec 1920	Obv. "Silent Night" issue. Joseph Mohr, church, Franz Gruber.
	20 Heller as above	Obv. as above.
	50 Heller as above	Obv. as above.

Linz?

Arndorf?

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Some additional remarks by Hermann Krause regarding German Christmas notgeld: The majority of the notes are from towns in Thuringia. Small wonder since the Thuringia Forest is the home of the glass blowing industry and consequently of the glass Christmas tree ornaments. However the neighboring state of "Saxonia" also has a Christmas or toy district. The southern part of Saxony is formed by the "Erzgebirge" (literally ore mountain range) whose wooded slopes are mainly inhabited by poor wood-carvers and miners (silver). The wood-carved miner in his traditional garb as candle-holder became simply a symbol of Christmas that everybody recognized. Many times these candlesticks come in pairs - a miner and an angel.

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Many of the issues on this list have been illustrated in Coin World and World Coins during the Christmas season in years past. The first check lists of Christmas notgeld were compiled by Dr. M. R. Talisman and published in the Journal of the Emergency Money Society (no longer in print). This list, though not identical to Talisman's, has been compiled and published with his consent and cooperation. Some information on other topics may be found in Notgeld Newsletter, Vol. 1.