The Fraktur

VOL. VIII, Nr. 10

October 1995

Staatsbad Bad Elster

Nestled in the Vogtland hills along the Weisse (white) Elster River is Bad Elster, once just inside the boundary of the German Democratic Republic and fewer than two miles from the border of Czechoslovakia.

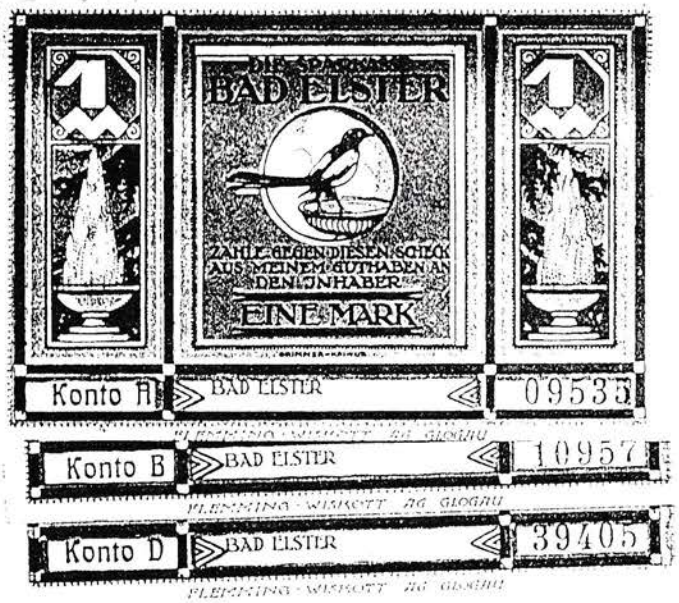
Other names given the Elster, as far back as the 10th century, are Elstrit, Elstret and Elstrat. Note the bird on the arms of the town: an Elster, a magpie.

In a 20-mile radius of Bad Elster are the towns, and their wooded or mountainous areas, of Hof (Frankenwald); Bad Elster (Elstergebirge) Selb (Fichtelgebirge, spruce mountains); Oelsnitz and Plauen (Thueringerwald); and slightly further, the Ober-pfaelzerwald and the Westerzgebirge (western ore mountains).

In the 20-mile radius are the sources of the Weisse Elster, Weisse Main, Saale, Eger (Ohre) and Naab Rivers.

To pursue the possibility of development of a salt works, in 1531 an analysis was made of the Moritz spring. A new report was made to officials in the Vogtsberg castle near Oelsnitz in 1538.

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Notgeld from Bad Elster includes Schecks in values of 25-, 50- and 75-Pfennig and 1 and 2 Mark. Within each denomination were Konto series A, B, C, D E and F, plus a blank, without letter. Printer: Flemming-Wiskott AG Glogau.



25 Pf
Center, panaroma view of the town
left: Romerhuette
Right: Eremitage

Another examination was made in 1669 by the Wettin Moritz (1656-1681) of Saxony-Zeitz, whose report is extant, as is the name affixed to the flowing waters: Moritz Spring. A 1799 analysis of the water from the spring confirmed earlier results.

The Wettin family name of the Vogtland rulers was continued in Bad Elster when the Wettiner Hof was built in 1907.

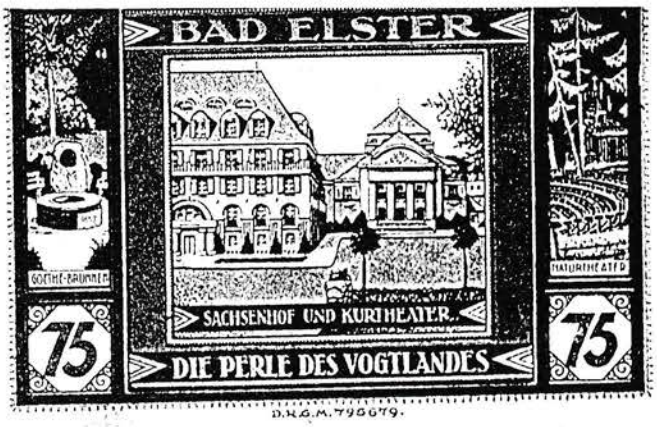
Today, there are three springs used for drinking and five for baths in Bad Elster, each high in sodium, calcium, ammonia, iron, magnesium, carbon dioxide, sulphur and silicic acid.

After passing through this area of Czechoslovakia, for a portion it forms the German-Czech border, then flows northward, passing Oelsnitz, Plauen, Greiz, Weida, Gera, Zeitz, Leipzig and Halle, where it flows into the Saale River.



50 Pf
Center: Die Salzquelle
left: Floratemple
right: Hygia gruppe

75 Pf
center: Sachsenhof und Kurtheater
left: Goethe Brunnen
right: Naturtheater



Reseachers trace the origin of area city names which end in -itz to a Slavic occupation between 800 A.D. and 1000 A.D.

By 1819, there were wooden bath cabins which catered to 100 guests. On June 25, 1848, Dr. Robert Flechsig officially opened the bathing season of the Royal Saxonian State Bath Elster.

Following World War I mud pits were created, where mud used with the cures was mixed with new mud and recycled. Treatments are available for rheumatism, arthritis, skin diseases, heart disease, gynological ailments, cancer, depression and other psychological problems.

In 1966, administration of the state spas of Bad Elster and Bad Brambach, about five miles south, were combined.

Bad Elster is the southernmost town of the Vogtland, on the Upper Weisse Elster River. Six miles south of Bad Elster, the river forms on the German-Czech border. In this area the country of Czechoslovakia pokes its northwesternmost area into Germany.



1 Mark
center: Albertbad u. Wettiner Hof
left: Margaretenhuette
right: Kreuzkapelle

2 Mark
center: Das Kurhaus
left: Bettybank
right: Waldfrieden



It might be added that all of the towns mentioned in the ne last paragraph on Page 2 which are along the Weisse Elster ne issued some form of Notgeld.

Traces of bones found in the area dating back to the Stone Age have been attributed to rhinoceroses, wild horses and mammoths. Other remains have been found which can be traced to the Ice Age.

The oldest documented reference to the village of Elster is dated 1322: Elster appears in a comment, the "seat of Knight Conrad, one of the masters of Neiperg, who had their Neiperg Castle between Elster and Asch."

In 1414 some innkeepers of Elster include the Uebels, the Heidenreichs, Mader, Kolmar, Moechen, Keysitz, the Peters, Hafersentens, Hans Mueller and Peter Herbig.

Bad Elster was visited by the poet Goethe in 1795. Bad Elster and the near-by town of Adorf are believed to be the setting for the Goethe work, "Hermann and Dorothea."

In 1914, the spa theater was officially reopened by the last Saxon king, Friedrich August III. Bad Elster was a favorite spot as he made visits between 1914 and 1918, though not as a patient.

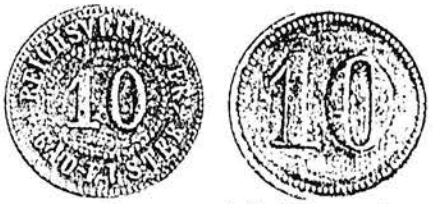
A routine which was established with the king was an evening arrival on his private railway car; a dawn date with Forest Master Oeser, Spa Director von Alberti and Court Hunting Master Von Arnim. The hunt was on for grouse. Later on the there was a visit to the hot baths; an evening of bowling completed the day.

As can be discerned from these remarks, Bad Elster was unscathed in World Wars I and II.

Inflation issues of Bad Elster include the following:

Schecks from the Girokasse Bad Elster
Aug. 13, 1923 1 million Mark
Aug. 18, 1923 1 Million Mark
Aug. 23, 1923 1 Million Mark
Aug. 31, 1923 5 Million Mark
Oct. 23, 1923 5, 10 Milliarden Mark
Nov. 17, 1923 500 Milliarden Mark

Allgemeine Deutsche Credit-Anstalt Zweigstelle Bad Elster
Schecks of the Commerz- und Privat-Bank A.G.
Aug. 13, 1923 100,000, 1 Million Mark
Aug. 15, 1923 500,000 Mark
Schecks of Voigtlaendische Credit-Anstalt
Aug. 10, 1923 500,000 Mark
Aug. 13, 1923 500,000 Mark
Badedirektion
Schecks of the Saechsische Staatsbank
Aug. 13, 1923 100,000 Mark
Aug. 15, 1923 1 Million Mark
Schecks of the Girokasse Bad Elster
Oct. 23, 1923 10 Milliarden Mark
Oct. 26, 1923 1, 5, 10, 20 Millionen Mark



Brass 10-Pfennig token of the Reichsverweser, Bad Elster

Commerz-und Privat-Bank Aktiengesellschaft
Schecks of Allg. Deutsche Credit-Anstalt Zweigstesslle BadE
Aug. 7, 1923 1 Million Mark
Aug. 15, 1923 1 Million Mark

(Continued from Page 4)

Elster-Porzellanwerke A.-G. Muehlhausen-Bad Elster
Schecks of Girokasse Bad Elster
Oct. 26, 1923 5, 10, 20 Milliarden Mark

THE FRAKTUR BOOKSHOP

October 1995

Austria

Richter, Rudolf "Notgeld Oesterreich Deutsch-Oesterreich und Nachfolgestaaten mit Nebengebieten ab 1918" Regenstauf 1993 $32.50

Czechoslovakia

"Notifilie," published by the Czech paper money society, issues 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 21, 22; $4 each; $40 the set.

Denmark

"Siegs seddelkatalog Slesvig Plebiscit zone I og II," Ulbjerg, 1970, $10

Estonia

Ross, Heino "Lokal-, Privat- und Notgelder in Estland" Kirjastus 1994 $22.50

France

Bourg, P. A. Hanot "Billets de Necessite Francais Chambres de Commerce 1914-1924" 2nd Ed Luxembourg 1985 $8.50

Hanot, A., P. Bourg "Billets de Necessite Francais Comites locaux 1914-1918" 2nd ed Luxembourg 1987 $8.50

Gadoury, V, R. Elie "Monnaies de Necessite Francaises 1789-1990" Monte Carlo 1990 $50

Lamb, Robert "A Catalogue of French Emergency Tokens of 1914-1922," 1967 $15

Germany

Bakowsky, Herbert "Das Notgeld der Stadt Flensburg 1914-1923" Berlin 1975 $10
Fillmann, Hans, Kai Lindman "LPG-Geld" Sassenburg 1991 $20
Krause, Hermann, Kurt Biging, Kai Lindman Band 4: Verpackungen (envelopes) Sassenburg 1995 $25

Lindman, Kai "Celler Notgeld" Celle 1992 $15
Lindman, Kai "Die Ersatzzahlungsmittel der Strafvollzugseinrichtungen der DDR" Sassenburg 1992 $10
Lindman, Kai "Serienscheine Band 1: Grundausgaben" Sassenburg 1994 $17
Meyer, Hans "Das Papiernotgeld des Nachmaligen Landes Thueringen 1914-1923" Berlin 1976 $10
Noske, Reinhard "Das Not-und Ersatzgeld aus Breslau 1914-1923" Regenstauf 1991 $18
Pick, Albert, Carl Siemsen "Emergency Money of World War II" Battenberg, Munich, 1979 $35
Pick, Albert, Carl Siemsen "Das Lagergeld Concentration Camp and D.P.Camp Scrip 1933-1947" Regenstauf 1993 $27.50

(Continued from Page 5)

Schoenawa, Hartmut "Das Papiergeld von Sachsen" Werlaburgdorf 1991 $25

Schoenawa, Hartmut "Das Papiernotgeld von Mecklenburg und Pommern" Werlaburgdorf 2nd ed 1993 $20

Upton, Richard and others. "Emergency Coins of Germany" (Metal and Porcelain) original first edition 1970 $7.50

Poland

Sikorski, Boigumil "Papierowy Pieniadz Zastepczy Jastrowia, Okonka, Wysokiej i Zlotowa Oraz Powiatu Zlotowskiego" Pila 1992 $12.50

Siam

Ramsden, H.A. "Siamese Porcelain and other Tokens" Yokohama 1911 $25

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Received too late for the September 1995 issue were photos from our May visit to Marburg. For many years a baggage handler at the Marburg train station endeared himself to travelers. When he died, an iron statue of him was placed in the Marburg business center. At left, Marburg guide Bernard Schwalm, left, chats with Courtney Coffing; in the same position at right is my Giessen host Werner Kroeck. Note the cobble streets, Fach-Werk (half-timbered) houses.

Kluetz ND 10, 25 Pf L-689 Reutergeld #1.25*
Kleinen, Bad/Mecklenburg ND 25 Pf L-685 Reutergeld $.65*
Koeln Sept. 12, 1922 100 Mark K-314a $2.75
Koeln Aug. 15, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-2684p $2
Koeln Aug. 24, 1923 20 Millionen Mark K-2684s $3
Koeln Sept. 10, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K-2684u $2.75
Koeln Aug. 24, 1923 20 Millionen Mark K-2684v
Koeln Sept. 10, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K-2684w $3.25
Koeln Sept. 14, 1923 200 Millionen Mark K-2684z $2.25
Koeln Sept. 20, 1923 500 Millionen Mark K-2684bb $2.75
Koeln Sept. 20, 1923 5 Milliarden Mark K-2684dd $2.75
Koeln Aug. 1, 1923 1 Million Mark Rheinisches Braunkohlen-syndikat K-2696a $3.50
Koeln Aug. 1, 1923 200,000 Mark Felten & Guilleaume Carlswerk K-2735b $3.50
Koeln-Muelheim Aug. 15, 1923 5 Millionen Mark Felten & Guilleaume Carlswerk K-2735k $3.75
Koenigsaue June 10, 1921 25, 40, 50, 75, 100 Pf L-701 $3*
Koenigsberg/Mark Feb. 1921 50 Pf L-702 $1.25*
Koenigsberg/Franken Nov. 1918 20 Mark K-264 $2.50
Koenigsee/Thuer. Jan. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-705 $4.25*
Koenigsee/Bayern March 26, 1921 10, 20, 25 Pf L-707 $5*
Koennern/Prov. Sachsen April 19, 1920 P-S 1136b $2.25
Koesen, Bad June 1, 1921 10, 50 (2) Pf L-713 $2.50*
Koenigswinter/Rhein Nov. 1, 1921 50 (8) Pf Ask for serial numbers! L-709 $5*
Koenigswinter/Rhein July 15, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-710 $4*
Koberg ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-693c $1.75*
Koestritz Oct. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-715 $.60
Kolberg/Pommern March 1, 1917 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 1141 $2
Kolberg/Ostsee Sept. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark green; 25, 50, 75 Pf blue L-716 $4.50
Konstanz/Baden Dec. 1918 50 Pf P-S 1145w $.75
Konstanz/Baden Oct. 23, 1922 100 Mark K-327a (can supply with or without back stamp) $20*
Kranichfeld Feb. 22, 1921 10, 50 Pf L-720 $2.50*
Krappitz/Schlesien ND 25 Pf P-S 1152 $6*
Kreuzburg/Schlesien Oct. 18, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-723b $1.75*
Kreuzburg/Schlesien ND 1 Mark (3), L-723c $2.25*
Kreuznach Sept. 15, 1923 50 Millionen Mark K-2813c $3.50
Kroepelin ND 25, 50 Pf L-725 Reutergeld $1.25*
Kronach 1921 25, 50 (3) Pf L-726 Schiestl $2.25*
Kudowa, Bad/Schlesien ND 25 Pf L-727 $.60*
Kulmbach Oct. 12, 1918 5 Mark K-275 $1.50
Kunzendorf (Konczyce) /Oberschlesien March 1, 1922 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark bilingul L-729 $3*
Laage ND 50 Pf L-733 Reutergeld $.65*
Laehn/Riesengebirge ND 25 Pf L-735 $1.25*
Lage Feb. 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-736 $1.75*
Lahr/Baden Aug. 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1198k $.75*
Lamsdorf (Lambinowice)/Oberschlesien ND 10 Pf August Hoffmann P-S 1180 $7.50*
Landau/Pfalz Aug. 1, 1923 1 Million Mark K-2878 $3.25
Landkirchen/Fehmarn ND 50 Pfs, 1 Mark L-740 $1.60*
Langelohe ND 50 Pf L-744 $2.25*
Langquaid Sept. 5, 1923 300,000 Mark K-2913d $3
Langquaid Sept. 5, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-2913d $3
Leck/Schl-Holst. ND 25, 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-759 $7.50*

Leer/Ostfries. Oct. 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-760 $3*
Lehesten/Thuer. Nov. 11, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1220d $1*
Lehrte/Hannover Jan. 1, 1921 25 Pf P-S 1221 $2.50*
Leipzig Oct. 17, 1918 5, 20 Mark K-289 $6.50
Leipzig ND 50 (7) Pf Volkshaus L-765 $20*
Leipzig Oct. 1, 1923 500 Millionen Mark K-2986 $3.75
Leipzig Nov. 3, 1923 100 Milliarden Mark K-2986 $3.25
Leipzig Aug. 22, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-2988 $2.75
Leipzig Aug. 16, 1923 2 Millionen Mark K-2993 $3.75
Leipzig Aug. 16, 1923 1 Million Mark K-2995 $3.75
Leipzig Aug. 1923 500,000, 1 Million Mark Messamt K-3083 $8.50
Leipzig Aug. 1923 1, 2 Millionen Mark K-3086 Mitteldeutsches Braunkohlen-Syndikat $6.50
Lemgo May 25, 1921 50 Pf Ca L-768a $.65*
Lemgo May 25, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-768b $2.75*
Lenzen/Elbe ND 50 (3), 75 (3) Pf L-771 $4.50*
Leopoldshall/Anhalt July 25, 1921 L-773 25 (4), 50 (4), 75 (4) Pf L-773 Salt mines $8.50*
Lesum ND 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-774 $4*
Leutkirch/Allgaeu Aug. 20, 1923 500,000 Mark K-3240 $4
Leverkusen/Koeln Aug. 1, 1923 500,000, 1 Million Mark Friedr. Bayer & Co. K-3242d $7
Lichtenfels Nov. 8, 1918 10, 20 Mark K-292 cut cancelled $4
Lichtenstein-Callnberg April 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf, L-777 $3.25*
Liebenwerda Oct. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-779 $12.50
Liebenwerda Sept. 16, 1922 100, 500 Mark K-367 $6.50
Liegnitz/Schlesien ND 10, 25, 50 L-1252 $2*
Lilienthal Jan. 2, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-780bI $3.50*
Lilienthal Jan. 15, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-780cI $1.25*
Lilienthal Feb. 1, 1921 25 Pf L-780d $.65*
Lilienthal March 1, 1921 25 Pf L-780e $1.25*
Lilienthal March 15, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-780f $5*
Lilienthal March 31, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-780g $2.50*
Lilienthal April 15, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-780h $1.25*
Lilienthal May 15, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-780i $2.50*
Lindau/Bayern ND (overprint Nov. 30, 1918 double 25 Pf o/p 25 Mark, double 50 Pf, o/p 5 Mark) P-S 1264 each punch cancelled $12.50
Lindau/Bayern ND (overprint Nov. 30, 1918) 25, 50 Pf (Overprint 25, 5 Mark) P-S 1264 $10
Lindau u. Weiler Oct. 10, 1918 5, 20 Mark K-296a $2.25
Lingen April 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-718a $5.75
Lingen/Hannover Sept. 1, 1921 75 Pf L-781b $.65*
Lingen/Hann. Jan. 1, 1922 10, 25, 75 Pf 2 Mark L-781c $6*
Linz/Rhein 1917 10 Pf P-S 12711 $1.25*
Linz/Rhein April 1, 1919 50 Pf P-S 1271 $2*
Linz/Rhein July 1, 1920 10, 25 Pf P-S 1271o $1.75
Lippe Nov. 13, 1918 50 Pf, 1 Mark K-298; P-S 1275 $2*
Lippspringe, Bad May 28, 1921 25,50, 75 Pf L-783 $1.75*



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

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