The Fraktur

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THE OBERSCHLESIEN PLEBISCITE
(CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 1991)

Voters were to be native residents; nonresident natives; nonnative residents; and those who had been expelled.

Voting day, March 20, was free from disturbances as about 97.5 percent of those eligible voted.

Voting figures were published on May 7, by communes, as called for by the treaty. Of 1,522 communes, 844, 54 percent, voted for Germany; 678, 42.5 percent, for Poland. Of 1,220,514 registered voters, 1,190,846 had voted. Of that number, 707,605, 59.6 percent, voted for Germany; 479,359, 40.3 percent, voted for Poland.

Based on the vote, the Interallied Commission had to draw a line, with regard to the wishes of the inhabitants. While the commission mulled things over, and vocal proponents on either side voiced their suggestions, on May 1 Korfante's publication, "Grenzzeitung," suggested only a small portion of Upper Silesia was destined to be joined to Poland. This report triggered the third Polish insurrection. Authorities agree that evidence shows that the insurrection was planned by Korfanty to scuttle the work of the commission.

[2] The following table gives the percentage of Poles in the *Kreise* of the plebiscite area according to language, the local elections of 1919, and the plebiscite. The final column gives the percentage of the outvoters to the total number of persons registered. The figures for the plebiscite vote by *Kreise* (with the exception of Neustadt) are those supplied to the author by the Conference of Ambassadors.

Kreis	Schools, 1911 Language spoken at home by primary school children	Language Census, 1910	Votes for Parish Councils 1919*	Plebiscite	Difference between per cent in Plebiscite and Language Census, 1910	Proportion of outvoters to total of persons registered
Beuthen *Land*	84.7	62.8	75.7	59.0	3.8	7.2
Beuthen *Stadt*	54.4	33.1	31.5	25.4	7.7	12.9
Gleiwitz *Stadt*	40.3	14.7	24.4	21.0	6.3	14.6
Kattowitz *Land*	84.2	54.8	73.2	55.5	9.3	8.9
Kattowitz *Stadt*	38.6	13.3	19.0	14.6	1.3	12.1
Königshütte	61.1	34.0	41.1	25.2	8.8	10.7
Kosel	88.0	75.0	45.9	19.4	55.6	18.0*
Kreuzburg	74.9	47.2	48.0	3.9	43.2	39.7
Leobschütz	8.5	6.3	....	0.3	8.0	32.9
Lublinitz	92.4	79.3	66.7	49.6	29.7	15.6
Oppeln *Stadt*	31.9	15.8	7.1	5.0	10.8	24.6
Oppeln *Land*	87.3	75.8	61.3	30.5	45.3	21.5
Pless	93.5	86.0	86.2	74.0	12.0	8.5
Ratibor *Stadt*	51.8	39.5	9.5	9.4	20.6	22.8
Ratibor *Land***	43.4	47.7	61.6	41.2	....	16.6
Rosenberg	93.9	79.3	55.6	31.8	47.5	25.5
Rybnik	91.0	77.8	78.8	65.2	12.6	12.3
Gross-Strehlitz	89.2	79.2	70.2	50.6	28.6	16.9
Tarnowitz	86.3	66.8	78.1	61.6	5.2	9.6
Tost-Gleiwitz	87.2	76.4	71.7	57.5	18.9	10.2
Zabrze (Hindenburg)	79.8	51.0	75.4	48.8	2.2	8.8
Neustadt (Part) (Oberglogau)				11.9*		29.4*

* Unofficial calculations.
** Some figures for this *Kreis* refer to the whole of its former area.



Merchant Josef Scheitza in Chrosczuetz O/S, issued an undated 75-Pfennig note, "good until one month after the plebiscite." His telephone number, 11, is stamped on the back.





The March 20, 1921, plebiscite is the date of a 25-Pfennig bilingual note of Koenigshuette (Krolewska Huta on the other side.) Oberschlesien Help Day was proclaimed on a Notgeld set of Halberstadt, near Magdeburg, dated Sept. 11, 1921.

The few French and Italian troops in the area were unable to control the Polish insurgents. In Parliament Lloyd George said Korfanty's fait accompli could not be tolerated and the allies must keep order or let the Germans do it.

Gradually allied forces restored order by July 7, 1921. Each of the allied governments had their own ideas where the boundary should be drawn, and their suggestions were tossed into the lap of the Supreme Council.

The League of Nations drew the final line. Wambaugh said "It followed the Oder north for some miles from the southern border of the area, then turned northeast, giving Poland most of Rybnik and all of Pless and, in the industrial basin, Krolewska Huta (Koenigshuette), most of Beuthen Land, and Kattowitz Stadt- and Landkreise, while Germany was to keep Gleiwitz, Hindenburg and Beuthen Stadt.

North of Beuthen the line turned northwest, leaving small sections in the western parts of Tarnowitz and Lublinitz to Germany and the remainder to Poland.

The line allocated to Germany somewhat more than 75 percent of the area and 57 percent of its inhabitants. The 25 percent of the area alloted to Poland contained 76 percent of the coal mines, 90 percent of the coal reserves, 97 percent of the iron ore, 82 percent of the zinc ore, 71 percent of the lead ore, all of the 13 iron works, five of the eight zinc factories, almost half of the steel works and the great power plant and nitrate works which had been erected at Chorzow during the World War to produce ammunition."

	Superficie (KM²)	Population		Votes pour		Unités avec majorité		Charbon		Zinc et Plomb	
		1910	1919	Pologne	Allemagne	Pologne	Allemagne	Mines	Production 1920 (tonnes)	Mines	Production 1920 (tonnes)
Zabrze (4 Communes).....	22	25,371	27,807	8,627	4,682	4	...	1	1,056,187	..	.....
Kattowitz (4 Communes et 2 *Gutsbezirke*)	29	19,280	21,830	7,628	2,775	6	...	..	.....	..	.....
Total.....	51	44,651	49,637	16,255	7,457	10	...	1	1,056,187	..	.....
Total pour le territoire que les Commissaires italien et britannique proposent pour attribuer à la Pologne	2,783	416,201	471,835	169,205	76,582	324	47	27	10,010,294	5	266,230
Total.....	2,834	460,852	521,472	185,460	84,039	334	47	28	11,066,481	5	266,230
Pourcentage du total pour la Haute-Silésie.....	25.8	24	24.8	38.5	11.9	49.7	5.6	47	34.9	55	92.7

To be continued

There are several ways to "do" Europe.

One can join an "If it's Tuesday it must be Belgium" tour, seven countries in seven days. It is possible to pick up a few coins or bank notes of each country on such a tour.

The dedicated numismatist needs a bit more time. A planned trip to numismatic events can reap dividends: attend major auctions, visit coin shops, meet with coin clubs and for the ubiquitous Notgeld collectors, adventures abound.

One cannot find a purely Notgeld show. From the Netherlands to Austria, though, throughout the year, one can find year-round shows beginning in Basel. And there are numerous meetings of local coin club during each week. Don't discount the coin clubs; even if no coins are acquired on a drop-in visit, friendships and collecting partners may be established which could last a long time.

Several readers of THE FRAKTUR visited in Europe during the past two years. We have inquiries and comments from several who are planning visits in 1991.

We are listing 1991 shows which have been suggested by several readers. These range from major shows in connection with auctions to weekend shows sponsored by clubs as well as GI shows on US military bases.

One might wish to take part of the traveling cash in Pound, Deutsche Mark, French and Swiss Franc traveler's checks. On Saturday night in a restaurant US traveler's checks are highly discounted. In Germany, a Deutsche Mark traveler's check is worth 100 percent of the face value.

And remember, every meal or libation is likely to be a Bier Deckel opportunity!

Experienced travelers say half the fun of travel is in the planning. It is disappointing to find a useful map on the last day of your trip. For over a year THE FRAKTUR has offered maps in scales of 1:200,000 and 1:100,000 which are the same price charged in Europe. A GI, returned from two years in Germany, looked at one of the maps and said, "Gee, I wish I would have had that while stationed in Augsburg." He could have bought it there, but didn't.

It would be prudent to write to Notgeld collectors and dealers before the trip, once your schedule is fixed, and to meet with the grass roots Notgeld people.

Results from travel and suggestions for making the most of a trip will be appreciated by our readers.

MAJOR SHOWS, 1991

April 13-14	Muenchen
April 20-21	Verona, Italy Valkenburg (Paper) formerly Maastricht (Casino, 15 miles from Aachen, Germany)
April 27	Stuttgart-Bad Cannstadt
April 28	Hamburg
May 1	Hannover
May 5	Klagenfurt, Austria
May 5	Essen
May 12	Wuerzburg
June 3	Heidelberg Patrick Henry Village (GI)
June 9	London (Paper)
July 4	Antwerp
Sept. 17	Dortmund
Sept. 21-23	Speyer
Sept. 23	Tilburg, the Netherlands
Sept 30	Heidelberg (GI)
October 7	Karlsruhe
October 13-14	Muenchen (Paper)
October 21	Nuernberg
Nov. 3	London (Paper)
Nov. 3-4	Basel
Nov. 25	Hannover
Jan. 24-25 1992	Basel

(Thanks to Beate Rauch, Don Frendzel, Jos. M.F. Eijsersmans, and Albert Beck. We were reminded that visiting a coin show in Europe is one thing. Carrying coins across national lines might subject them to customs duties. Tables are expensive at shows. In short, leave material behind unless you have a definite market for it, and enjoy the show by wandering around, rather than sitting behind a table.)

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Dwight L. Musser, P.O. Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537, is printing the four-page glossary which appeared in THE FRAKTUR, July - October 1988, with our permission. He offers the list complimentarily to our readers requesting it and sending a stamped self-addressed envelope.

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Classified Advertising

German metal Notgeld bought and sold. Municipal, private, POW, beer, transportation, naval, military, Consum Verein, gas and electricity tokens are bought and sold. Sell books on metal Notgeld. Also interested in other continental European tokens. Send for latest list. T.J. ORLIK, Box 947, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

LES BILLETS DE NECESSITE
An Introduction to the Emergency Notes of the Great War

By Tony James
(Continued from February 1991)

The concept of ticket-like notes is easily seen in a pink centime note issued by the Supply Committee of the town of Nivelles, Oct. 1, 1918. Clearly stating its availability only in the food and supply shops of this town, until April 1, 1919, it is perforated, numbered and authorized by the president of the committee.

The Commune of Lierneux issued a more durable note of thicker cardboard. It indicates its issue date as Oct. 1, 1915, and also that the bearer will be able to redeem it at the local bank after the war. There is also a warning on the reverse, that the note must be validated by the stamp seal of the community and signature of a member of the council.



Chamber of Commerce issues from the Territory of Belfort, France, were issued in 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1921. Shown is a 1918 note.

In marked contrast to these sober items, the town of Mechelon (Malines) issued a set of attractive notes. The town, famous for Mechlin lace, is pictured on the front together with the coat of arms and the reverse of each note, in values of five, 10 and 50-centimes, illustrates important buildings of the town.

Each note is impressed with the town seal in miniature, completing a most attractive set, more in the vein of the German Notgeld. Like most Belgian emergency notes, they are limited in their availability to collectors.

What must have been one of the lowest denomination notes ever issued, is the one-centime yellow note from Sivry. Looking very much like a bus ticket, it is a masterpiece of utility with expiry date, amount, availability, printer serial number and limitations.

Redemption

Redemption of these emergency notes varied from town to town. Some have fixed dates for withdrawal, others state a term such as on the day peace is announced, or even one to six months after the signing of peace. Towns with several issues outstanding had to stagger redemption and sometimes had to get help from the state as they were in no position to redeem any notes.

A particular feature of Belgian notes is the bilingual text on most of the notes. However, some provinces did not issue notes in French, using only Flemish. There are certain peculiarities in Belgian French which are not correct French.

An easy way to tell the difference between French and Belgian emergency notes is in the titles of the signatories: In France the head of the town is the Maire (mayor). In Belgian it is the Bourgmestre. Also on Belgian notes, the issuing committees are often referred to as Le College.

Subject to availability, collectors can expect to pay $5 to $15 for Belgian emergency notes, which is around 30 percent more than those of French origin.

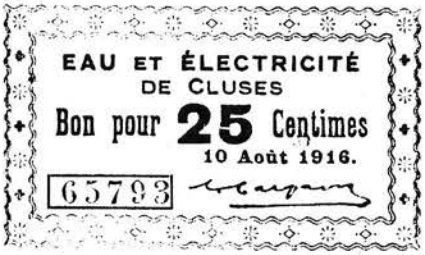
La Belle France

Areas of France have been devastated by war twice this century, giving rise to a particular series of emergency notes called "Billets de Necessite" (notes of necessity) or "Bons" (good fors).

These notes were introduced due to the population hoarding the circulating coins as soon as war broke out. The silver one franc and gold 20-franc coins disappeared and it was not long before the bronze and nickel coins were requisitioned for the war effort to feed the guns.

These emergency notes were issued by the chambers of commerce, municipalities, towns and cities, larger industrial companies, plus shops and communes of more than 100 inhabitants in the German occupied territories. Often limited quantities were issued. There was little difference in basic design, with changes being limited to the issue number, date and a total value of the issue.

The origins of these notes may be found in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1872, when the towns had their supplies of national currency cut off. Some survive from this period, including 10-franc issues from Calais. As part of an issue of 200,000 francs of five and 10-franc notes, the note with a beige background and an ink handwritten signature advises that it is "Bon au parteur" (good for the bearer) for 10 francs, so long as the bearer presents 1,000 francs worth to the cashier of the Treasury of the Chamber of Commerce.





To be Continued

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Classified Advertising

AUSTRIAN, GERMAN NOTGELD; World Banknotes, coins. Lists: periodic price; topical; send needs. Chuck Springman, 7462 Nall, Shawnee Mission, Kan. 66208.

Bielefeld Dec. 1. 1918 1. 2 Mark K-43 $7*
Bielefeld Jan. 10, 1920 5 Mark L-98 $2*
Bielefeld July 15, 1921 5 Mark L-98kI $1.25*
Bielefeld Aug. 20. 1923 500,000 Mark K-415b $2.50*
Bielefeld Sept. 9, 1923 10 Millionen Mark K-415c punch-cancelled $4
Blankenese Aug. 15, 1919 50 Pf P-S 243c $1.50*
Bleicherode March 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf L-1134 II $2.25*
Buer/Westfalen Oct. 10, 1923 5 Billionen K-659F $14*
Bunzlau Nov. 26, 1919 5, 10, 50 Pf K-462e $3*
Burg S/D May 24, 1916 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-200 $1.50
Burg/Magdeburg Oct. 1, 1918 25, 50 Pf K-350b $1.75*
Burg/Fehmarn 25, 50, 75 Pf L-199 $2*
Burghausen/Bayern 1918 50 Pf P-S-351b H. Schiestl $2*
Buttstaedt ND 25, 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-203 $7*
Butzbach May 6, 1921 25, 50 (7) Pf L-204 $10*
Buxtehude ND (to Oct. 1, 1920) 25 (3), 50 (2) Pf $6*
Calbe/Milde ND 50 Pf P-S-476h $1.50
Calbe/Kreis ND 10, 25 Pf P-S 360 1.25
Calbe/Saale April 23, 1917 50 (6) Pf Set L-205b $5*
Calbe/Saale ND 50 (6) Pf L-205 $4.25*
Calcar 1922 75 (2) Pf L-206 $2.75*
Camberg/Hessen July 15, 1917 50 Pf P-S 361a $4*
Camburg/Saale 1919 10, 50 Pf P-S 362c $2.25*
Camburg/Saale March 4, 1921 10, 50 Pf L-209 $1.25*
Camp Bornhofen July 1921 50 Pf L-211 Hans Kruzwicki $.75*
Carlow June 15, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-213 Set $2.75*
Carlshafen ND 50 Pf L-214 II $2*
Cassel Sept. 27, 1922 100 Mark K-94 $3.25*
Cassel Aug. 20, 1923 100,000 Mark $3.25
Caub ND (1920) 10, 20, 25, 50 Pf P-S 371 $3*
Celle to April 1, 1918 25 Pf, 1/2 Mark Harry Trueller $5.50*
Chemnitz to Dec. 31, 1921 10 Pf P-S 378 $.60
Cleve Nov. 12, 1918 50 Pf P-S 396 $.60
Coblenz Jan. 1, 1919 50 Pf P-S 398d $1.50*
Coblenz March 1, 1920 10, 25 Pf P-S 398f $2.50*
Coblenz May 1, 1921 25, 50 (3) Pf L-225 Set $3*
Coblenz-Neuendorf Oct. 1, 1921 75 Pf L-227 $.75*
Coburg 1919 50 Pf P-S 404 H. Schiestl $2*
Cochem Nov. 19, 1918 1, 5 Mark P-S 405 O/print $2.25*
Cochem Nov. 19, 1918 50 Pf P-S 405 $1.25*
Coesfeld ND 25 Pf P-S 406 H. Schiestl $2.25*
Colditz Sept. 1, 1921 50 (4) Pf L-231 $2.75*
Corbach Feb. 1, 1922 100 (6) Set Pf L-232 $18*
Cottbus ND 5, 10, 20, 50 Pf $2.50
Cottbus Aug. 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf Set L-235 $10*
Cranenburg Feb. 1, 1921 50+50 (3) Pf L-236 $9*
Crefeld Oct. 21, 1918 10 Mark Rubber stamp Entwertet $5
Crefeld April 22, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 417f $1.75
Crefeld Feb. 24, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-238 II $1.25*
Crimmitschau to Dec. 31, 1918 10 Pf P-S 420b $.40
Cuestrin/Oder Feb. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-240 $.65*
Cuxhaven October 1919 25, 50 Pf P-S 425c $2*
Cuxhaven March 1921 25, 50 Pf L-241 $1.50*

Daber/Pommern May 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf L-242 $1.50*
Dahlenburg Sept. 15, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-243 Set $2.25*
Dahme/Mark 1920 10, 25 Pf 1/2 Mark P-S 433 $2*
Dalhausen Nov. 5, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-246 $4*
Dannenberg 1919, 50 Pf; 1920, 5, 10 Pf P-S 434 $2*
Darmstadt ND 1, 2 Pf $1.25*
Darmstadt Feb. 1, 1919 50 Pf P-S 437 $2.25*
Darmstadt Dec. 15, 1920 5, 10 Pf P-S 437 $2*
Darmstadt Aug. 232, 1923 2 Millionen Mark $3*
Darmstadt Sept. 1, 1923 10, 50 Millionen Mark $6
Dassow to July 1, 1922 10, 25, 50 Pf Set L-251 $2*
Daun Feb. 20, 1920 25 (2), 50 Pf P-S 441 $3*
Delbrueck/Westfalen Jan. 27, 1921 25 Pf L-252 $2*
Dessau April 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 42c $1
Dessau July 1, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-257 $1.25
Detmold Nov. 13, 1918 50 Pf $1*
Detmold August 1920 50 (10) Pf Set L-259f $6.50*
Diepholz Sept 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf L-264b $2*
Diepholz July 18,1921 50 Pf L-263 $1.25*
Diepholz Aug. 1, 1921 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf Set L-264c $3*
Diepholz Sept. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf Set L-264b $2.25*
Diepholz Sept. 15, 1921 75 (4) Pf Set L-263d $3*
Diepholz Sept. 28, 1921 75 (4) Pf Set L-264e $3*
Diez/Lahn Nov. 1919 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 462e Set $3*
Diez/Lahn Dec. 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 462f $2*
Dingolfing Oct. 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 464d $1*
Dinslaken Aug. 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 466 $1.25*
Ditfurt July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-266a $2.25
Ditfurt July 1, 1921 50)6) Pf set L-266b $8*
Doberan ND 25, 50, (75 Pf on back) 75 Pf, 1 Mark Style of Reutergeld Set L-267 $8*
Doebeln 1917, 50 Pf; 1919, 50 Pf P-S 473 $2.25*
Doebeln Sept. 1, 1921 50 (8) Pf Set L-268 $6*
Doemitz/M June 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf Set L-269 $4.25*
Domnau Aug. 1, 1921 75 Pf L-271 $2*
Donauwoerth ND 10 Pf P-S 481 Heinz Schiestl $1.25*
Donauwoerth 1918 50 Pf P-S 481 Heinz Schiestl $1.50*
Dornburg/Saale Sept. 1, 1921 50 (4) Pf L-272 $2.25*
Dorsten ND 3 Mark L-273 $2*
Dortmund Sept. 20, 1922 500,000 Mark K-131a D $4*
Dortmund Oct. 10, 1922 25 (4), 50 (4) Mark Set K-131d $25*
Dortmund und Hoerde July 1, 1920 10, 35 Pf P-S 485c $1.25*
Dortmund und Hoerde Sept. 20, 1922 500,000 SMark K-131a Punch cancelled $4
Dramburg Aug. 6, 1920 10, 50 (2) Pf; 1 Mark L-276 $4.25
Drenke/Westfalen Nov . 5, 1921 1 Mark L-277 $1.25*
Dresden February 1921 50 Pf P-S 489 $.60*
Dresden-Altstadt to Dec. 31, 1918 50 Pf P-S 506a $.65
Dresden-Neustadt Sept. 26, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K-1121e $3*

* Uncirculated
K=Keller catalogs; L-Lindman catalog; P-S Pick-Siemsen
THE FRAKTUR, P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945