The Fraktur

VOL. X, NR. 12

December 1997

Nr. 59182 Nr. 14911 № 012554 № 35708 396657 Nr. 52414 13075

№ 023400 * 119283

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THE NUMBER GAME

By Tudor Morris

In his 1989 *Serienscheine* catalog Kai Lindman divides serial numbers into two main types: Type I, in which the horizontals of numbers 2 and 7 are curved and number 4 is open at the top; Type 2, in which the horizontals of 2 and 7 are straight and 4 is closed; and "Spezialtypen."

My purpose here is to analyze these types in some detail and to suggest a clear classification. All the examples are taken from notes in my own collection.

Dr. Arnold Keller discussed the significance of serial numbers for collectors in the Preface to the 1954. sixth edition of *Das Deutsche Notgeld, Kleingeldscheine, 1916-1922. IV. Teil: Serienscheine.* This Preface was translated by David Block in *Numismatics International Bulletin,* Vol. 13, Nr. 11, November 1979, pages 373-400.

His conclusions regarding the present matter are as follows: "In type I the top or bottom stroke of the 2, 5 or 7 is curved; the 4 is usually open at the top.

"Type II has the horizontal strokes of 2, 5 and 7 straight; the 4 is closed. There is also a mixed type, Type I but with a closed 4. In order to show both types clearly in the collection the collector must, therefore, try to get notes with serial numbers containing 2, 4, 5 or 7. For this purpose 0, 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 are neutral."

Block then adds in brackets: "A flat-topped 3, when present, shows the type to be II. A curved-top 5 is neutral and all 4's are neutral," and Block refers the reader to his own findings on the subject, "Numismatics International Bulletin," Vol. 12, Nrs. 2, February 1978, pages 45-49.

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MONTHLY NOTGELD QUOTE . . .

Weener
2 Mark, no date
L-1353



God, Protect Sluice and Dikes,
Let us at Storm's Assault not Yield.

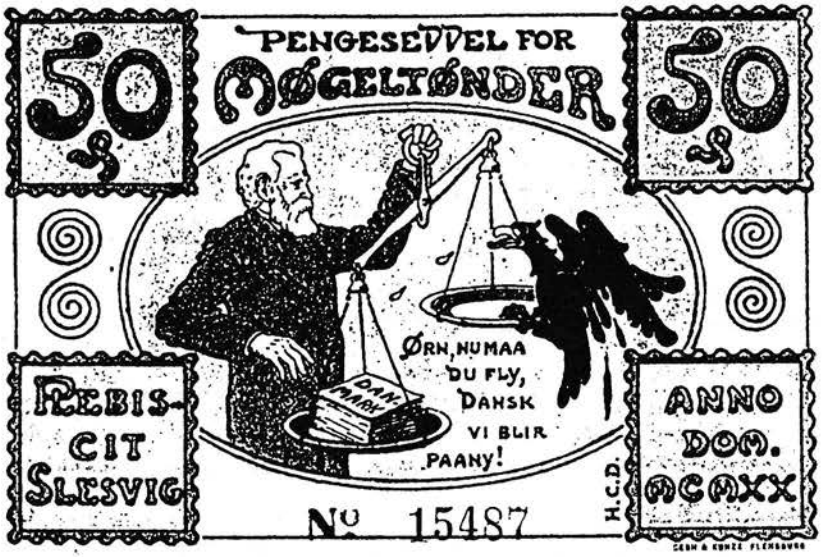
This feature, "Classifying Notgeld by serial number types," is interesting, and my own survey reinforces Block's categories. First, though, I offer some observations based on the examination of my own extensive collection.

a) Fewer than 50 percent of the series of Serienscheine in Lindman's catalog have any serial numbers. This is perhaps because of the expense involved, or maybe, through a commendable lack of desire to over-exploit collectors! Many better-designed notes just have no space for a serial number, or would have been spoilt by the addition of one.

b) In Type I numbers, one in three 4s are closed; in Type II numbers, one in five 4s are open; 4, therefore, must clearly be regarded as neutral, as Block states.

c) Even in Type II numbers, curved-top 5 is more common than flat-top 5, though the curve is sometimes very slight; 5, therefore, must also be regarded as neutral.

d) Straight-top 5 is *almost* always indicative of a Type II number, for I have found two examples where it appears in a Type I number.



Wyk auf Foehr L-1424b



Moegeltondern L-868

e) Straight-top 3 is not common, but I have found it only in Type II numbers.

f) The conclusion, then, is that only 2, 7 and flat-top 3 are absolute indicators of number type, with flat-top 5 not entirely to be trusted. If none of these digits appears in a serial number, it cannot be classified.

I suggest the following fourfold classification of serial numbers:

Ia (curved 2 and 7, open-top 4)



Steinfeld L-1231d

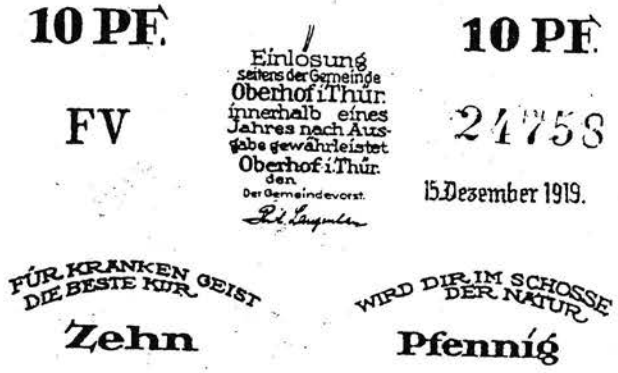


Harzgerode L-564f

Ib (curved 2 and 7, closed 4)



Butzbach L-204)



Oberhof L-969b

IIa (straight 2 and 7, closed 4)

Some IIa notes have serial numbers with curved-top 5., I have not found this on IIb notes.



Burg auf Fehmarn L-199



Schneeberg L-1160





Dramburg L-276a

IIb (straight 2 and 7, open-top 4)

Some IIb notes have serial numbers with straight-top 3. I have not found this on IIa notes

Many notes in one's collection will have neutral serial numbers of indeterminate type. Is this a problem? Not really, because in the Lindman catalog there are very few series in which notes are sub-classified solely on the basis of whether their serial numbers are Type I or Type II.

Usually there are other factors such as color, size, width, number of digits, etc. Even when such factors are absent, the Type I and Type II notes ares usually cataloged at the same price.

There are a few interesting exceptions. The one Mark note of Broacker, L-180b, is cataloged at 10 Deutsche Mark, if Type I, and at two DM if Type II. My note has a neutral serial number 000819, so I will never know its real value.

My 25-Pfennig note of Cuxhaven, L-241, has the serial number 014164, with two closed 4s, which makes it neutral. But the 50-Pf note has a clear IIa serial number 123407 and the print



Lobenstein L-787a



Ueckermuende L-1317

looks the same, so I will gladly settle for both notes sas being Type II, worth one DM each instead of four DM. Such situations are so rare that they can only be regarded as curiosities.

I do hope that other collectors will now examine the serial numbers on the Serienscheine to see if they agree with my observations.



Cleve L-223a



Dueben L-281





What could be better than a visit from St. Nikolas?

What about a visit **To** St. Kai at his igloo on the Prussian plain, a veritable Notgeld workshop of books, Notgeld, works in progress, unanswered correspondence -- you get the picture.

His toy (make that Notgeld) shop is manned by a jolly white bearded elf with works continually in progress. When one is finished, half a dozen others are on his mind.

A man of many talents, he is a teacher of several subjects, including English, a musician, is fond of the railroad history of his area, has an interest in stock and bond certificates, is the author of special volumes on Notgeld topics and reads and speaks Finnish.

His goodies are found hanging from the shelves, and go on and on: toy trains, souvenirs from other places, trays of Notgeld, books and boxes holding "future works."

However, Santa's workshop is somewhat modern, also, making best use of a computer, copy machine, printer, FAX and a bookbinding operation. What else could Santa need to keep busy on long winter nights?

St. Kai's interest runs deep in early publications on Notgeld, a high respect for the efforts of Dr. Arnold Keller, a sense of urgency to publish, publish, publish.

A work now only sketched out on paper will be beer themes on Notgeld (he doesn't drink beer); also topics of bells, music on Notgeld, and tax receipts which looked like Notgeld.

St. Kai decried the abuse found in Notgeld collections offered to him: notes in albums but with glue on them, photo hinge remainders, stench from being stored in damp basements, even notes trimmed with scissors to eliminate glue or other abuse, which at times reduces the note to only its main portrait.

"Who would have it?" he asks. "Who would be proud to show such a monstrosity in his collection?" the jolly old elf asks. "It is fit only for the garbage bin," he rails.

Asked what happened when owners of fine collections die, St. Kai replied that often the collections are sold as a lot or tossed out with the other junk, perhaps a collection of a lifetime.

Lindman blames the owner of the collection for such rash disposals. Rather than leave an inventory of the collection or an idea of its value, the owner might not want the survivors to know how much money he had squirreled away over the years in building the collection.

Or perhaps the collector did not want to spend the time in building the inventory ("something I'll do tomorrow!").

Thus are lost the scarce notes, some of which were never catalogued, perhaps taken forever from the recorded history of Notgeld.

And not just Notgeld, St. Kai points out. Books, auction catalogs, magazines are also manna for the maw of the junkman.

There is an element of collectors who are humble, modest, who don't seek publicity, who keep the collection, or at least the valuable items, in the local safe deposit box (there is no safety deposit box!!).

A more prudent solution would be an inventory of at least the scarce items in the hands of an attorney, known to the wife, as directions are given for gifts to family members, collector friends, or to be offered for sale by a specified auction house or a minimum value in the mind of the owner.

In the rush to clear out the clothing and personal items of the recently deceased owner, valuable collections, whatever their subject, are fair game.

St. Kai has recently completed the letter B in the task of updating the Pick-Siemsen work of Dr. Keller on Circulating notes. With a long winter ahead, he plans to have volume A ready by the early spring..

THE FRAKTUR BOOKSTORE

We have a few additions which may interest readers.

There is a new supply of the Schoenawa book on Sachsen. This was the province with the greatest number of Notgeld-issuing towns. The books lists all issues from 1914 to 1923, 378 pages, $20 postpaid, on hand. We have been told that Schoenawa works in progress include Thueringen, then Schlesien (Silesia).

Rudolf Richter adds a new volume to his stable of Notgeld books on the old Austrian-Hungarian Empire, this time called *Lagergeld,* Prisoner of War pieces. Retail price" $37.50, on hand.

Ivar Leimus has written about paper money of Estonia, *Eesti Vabariigirahad 1918-1992,* published in Tallinn in 1993. There are 97 pages of text and 85 color plates; we can order for about $25. Summaries are in English and Russian.

The JUNGDO (*Jungdeutscher Orsden Notes)* book by Kai Lindman is being prepared for an English edition.

LETTERS

My name is Vytautas Smilgevičius. I am a student of Vilnius University. I work in the Numismatic Department of the National Museum of Lithuania. I am a mastor of arts. My field of interest is numismatics and I have maintained my bachelor's degree, "Works of Povilas Karazija in the Lithuanian Numismatic Field." [The writer then talks about Karazij, which we covered in our January-February issue, written by Smilgevičius].

Karazija's article, "The Sančiai Hoard" is the last book that remained unpublished after the author's death. It was finished in 1952 and the author discussed the Sančiai hoard of the first type Lithuanian coins. For three years the author was unable to publish it for reasons that I do not know. Now I am taking care about publishing of this book and as soon as it is published, I will send you a copy.

You are absolutely right that Povilas Karazija wrote a study about Lithuanian numismatics, but, unfortunately, it disappeared after his death. Also missing was his study about Panevėžys, where Karazija was born.

I have read with great interest what you have done in the field of Lithuanian numismatics and I think you have done themost in researching and popularization of it. Also, the edition of The Knight is unique in the history of Lithuanian numismatics.

I am seeking information about the first Lithuanian coins. Now I am writing my thesis to obtain a master of sciences detgree. The thesis is entitled, "The problem of the very first coins of Lithuania in historiography." I have read the various sources, i.e. Jonas Karys, articles in the USA-printed *Aidai,* and others. But maybe there are American authors who wrote about these coins. I would appreciate any information, if possible.

With best wishes for you and your newspaper, Sincerely, yours,Vytautas Smilgevičius, Arsenalo Str. 1, 2001, Vilnius, Lithuania.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

GERMAN-FRENCH world paper Notgeld. Over 10,000 pieces in stock! Large lists. Ian A. Marshall, Parkway Mall Box 62509, 85 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, Ontario CANADA M1R 5G8

Stassfurt Oct. 1, 1918 5, 10 Mark K-469 $6
Stassfurt Sept. 1, 1921 25 (6), 50 (3) Pf L-1225 $6*
Stavenhagen ND 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1226a (2 with control Nr.) $4.50*
Stavenhagen ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1226b Reutergeld $2.25*
Stecklenberg/Harz July 1, 1921 25, 50 (3) Pf L-1227a $3.25*
Stedesand Oct. 10, 1920 25, 40 Pf L-1228 I $1.25*
Stedesand Oct. 10, 1920 60, 75 Pf L-1228 V $1.25*
Steinbach/Meiningen ND 50 Pf L-1230 No Control Nr. $4*
Steinburg Nov. 12, 1918 1, 2, 5 Mark K-470 $3.50
Steinfeld June 30, 1920 50 Pf L-1231a $.65*
Steinfeld July 30, 1920 50 Pf L-1231b $.65*
Steinfeld July 31, 1920 50 (2) Pf L-1231c $1.25*
Steinfeld July 31, 1920 25 (4) Pf L-1231d $2.50*
Steinfeld ND 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-1231e "Beschirm" $1.25*
Steinfeld ND 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-1231f $2.50*
Steinheid ND 10, 50 Pf P-S 2424 $2.75*
Steinheim/Westfalen March 18, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1232 $2*
Stellingen Oct. 1, 1920 50, 75 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-1234a $5*
Stellingen-Lengenfelde ND 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1234b $2.50*
Stendal/Altmark July 15, 1921 50 (7) Pf L-1236 $5*
Sternberg/Meck. ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1237a Reutergeld $2.25*
Sternberg/Meck. ND 50, 75 (2), 100 (3) Pf L-1237b $4.25*
Stettin July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1239b $4*
Stettin Jan. 1, 1922 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf L-1239c $5*
Stettin Jan. 1, 1922 25, (2), 50 (3), 75 (2) Pf L-1239d $9*
Stockelsdorf ND 1 Mark L-1240 $.65*
Stoeckheim ND 50 (2) Pf L-1241b $6*
Stollberg Nov. 15, 1918 5 Mark K-473 $3.25
Stollberg Aug. 9, 1923 100,000 Mark K-488892a $2.75
Stollberg Aug. 9,. 1923 1 Million Mark K-4892c $2.50
Stollberg Sept. 1, 1923 100,000; 500,000; 2, 5, 10, 50, 100 Millionen Mark K-4892e $22.50
Stollberg Oct. 12, 1923 1 Milliarde Mark K-4891 $2.50
Stolp/Pommern ND 50, 75 Pf, 1, 1.50, 2 Mark L-1244a Schecks $3.75*
Stolp/Pommern ND 50, 75 Pf, 1, 1.50, 2 Mark L-1244b Schecks $3.75*
Stolp/Pommern ND 50, 75 Pf, 1, 1.50, 2 Mark L-1244c Schecks $3.75*
Stolzenau/Weser April 30, 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-1245a $4*
Stolzenau/Weser May 1, 1921 50 (5), 75 (2) Pf L-1245b $5*
Stotel Feb. 11, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-1247a $1.25*
Stotel Feb. 11, 1921 25 (4) Pf L-1247b $2.50*
Strasburg/Ucker 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1249 $2.25*
Strausburg/Brandenburg Sept. 1, 1921 1/2 (4), 1, 2 Mark $4*
Striegau/Schlesien September 1921 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-1253 map $4*
Stroebeck ND 1 Mark L-1263c III $.65*
Stuetzerbach/A 1921 50 (5), 75 (2) Pf L-1256a $5*
Stuetzerbach/W June 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1256b $2*
Stuttgard April 21, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-1258 $3.25*
Suchsdorf ND 25 (2), 50 Pf L-1260 $2
Suderode/Harz May 13, 1921 75 (4) Pf L-1261 $2.50*

Suederbrarup ND 50 (8) Pf L-1263b Plebiscite $5*
Suederbrarup ND 1 Mark L-1263c $2.50*
Suederbrarup 1920 25, 50 Pf, 2 Mark L-1263d $2*
Suelze ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1268 Reutergeld $2.25*
Suesel Nov. 4, 1920 1 Mark (50+50 Pf) 50 (2) Pf L-1270a $1.25
Suesel Nov. 4, 1920 1 Mark (75+25 Pf) 6 colors, L-1270b $35*
Sulza, Bad/Thuer. July 19, 1921 10, 25, 50 (2) 75 (2) Pf L-1272 $4*
Suhl ND 25 (4), 30 (4), 50 (4) Pf L-1271 guns $10*
Swinemuende March 18, 1922 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-12744 $2.50*
Tangermuende April 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1276 $2*
Tangstedt ND 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-1277 $15*
Tanna/Reuss Jan. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2468d $5*
Tannroda July 15, 1921 10, 25, 50 f L-1278 $2*
Tegernsee/Bayern June 1, 1921 10, 20, 30. 40 Pf L-1281 $6*
Teterow ND 10, 25 Pf L-1284 Reutergeld $1.50*
Teuchern March 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1285 $1.25*
Thale/Harz Jan. 1, 1921 10 Pf L-1288a $.65*
Thale/Harz 1921 3 Mark L-1288g $1.25*
Thale/Harz Johanni 1921 5, 75, 100 Pf L-1288h $2*
Thale/Harz 1921 1, 3 Mark L-1288 l $7*
Thannhausen 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2488c $10*
Thesdorf ND 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-1289 $12.50*
Thesdorf ND 25, 50 Pf L-1289 III Red control Nr. $15*
Tiefurt Aug. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) 75 (2) Pf L-1291 $4*
Tiefurt Aug. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-1291 $1.25*
Tilsit Nov. 12, 1921 50, 75 Pf, 3 Mark L-1292 $7.50*
Tingleff, Denmark April 1, 1920, 1 Mark; April 10, 1920, 50 Pf L-1293a, c $2.50*
Tingleff, Denmark April 10, 1920 50 Pf L-1293b Single color $3.50*
Tinnum/Sylt April 1, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-1294 $8*
Tondern Feb. 10, 1920 20, 25, 50 Pf L-1296 $2.25*
Tonndorf-Lohe March 30, 1921 20, 30, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1297a $2.50*
Tonndorf-Lohe July 1, 1921 1 Mark (2) L-1297c $1.25*
Torgau Feb. 10, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1298a dark blue $2.50*
Torgau Feb. 10, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1298b $2.50*
Torgau Feb. 10, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1298c $2.50*
Torgau Nov. 1, 1922 100, 500 Mark K-588 $5
Tostedt 1921 50 Pf L-1299 $1.25*
Trebnitz/Schlesien Nov. 5, 1920 50 (2) Pf P-S 2501 i $4*
Trebnitz/Schlesien June 1, 1921 L-1305a $5*
Treffurt/Werra Dec. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1305b $5*

Special Offers

Muensterberg/Schlesien April 19, 1921 10, 25, 50 L-893 $25 (to end Dec. 1997)
Nuernberg-Furth Aluminum streetcar tokens, Menzel 10406; Ludwigs - Eisenbahn Nuernberg-Fuerth, Menzel 10382; Regensburg streetcar tokens, Menzel 11414 Total 62 tokens each glued to paper back. Also, *Nuernberg-Fuerth Strassenbahn Geld 1921* by Captain Arthur Hyman, 1965 $300

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

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