The Fraktur

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June 1994

GIESSEN -- Then and Now

By Werner Kroeck

Several series of notes issued in Giessen/Lahn offer scenes of the city and personalities. Giessen lies about 60 kilometers north of Frankfurt/Main.

Famous sons of Giessen include Karl Liebknecht, (1871-1919). A professor of agricultural chemistry at the university for some 25 years was Justus von Liebig, born in Gross-Gerau in 1803, and later a professor at the University of Munich, where he died in 1873. He is buried in Munich in the Altfriedhof. The university in Giessen now bears his name.



The back of each 1918 note of Giessen shows the city arms, a winged rampant lion with a divided tail.

The university was founded in 1607; in 1847 there were 40 professors and 570 students. In 1959 there were 1,534 students enrolled in the university; today there are more than 25,000.

Also connected with the university was Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, (1845-1923), discoverer of X-rays, who is buried in Giessen.

Guests of the city for extended time included Georg Buechner (1813-1837) and Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749-1832).

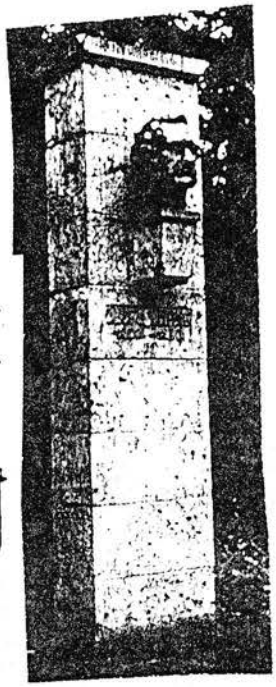
Fifty years ago the central portion of Giessen was destroyed by bombing, in 1944. Some buildings were reconstructed as before; other areas were completely changed, such as installation of walking malls.

Notgeld issued in 1918 in values of 5, 10 and 20 Mark show views of the city. We are attempting to show modern views of the same sites. From July 2 - 4, 1921, The Giessener Briefmarken-Ansichtskarten-und Notgeldausstellung was held,


Notgeld der Gibana 1921
50 Pf.
Alter chemischer Ofen Liebigs, Giessen
Giessener Briefmarken-Ansichtskarten-und
Notgeldausstellung vom 2.-4. Juli 1921.


50 Pfennig 50
DEM ANDENKEN LIEBIGS
Liebigs Laboratorium
Gutschein No. 7127


5 Pfennig 25
Liebig-Denkmal
Gutschein No. 7116



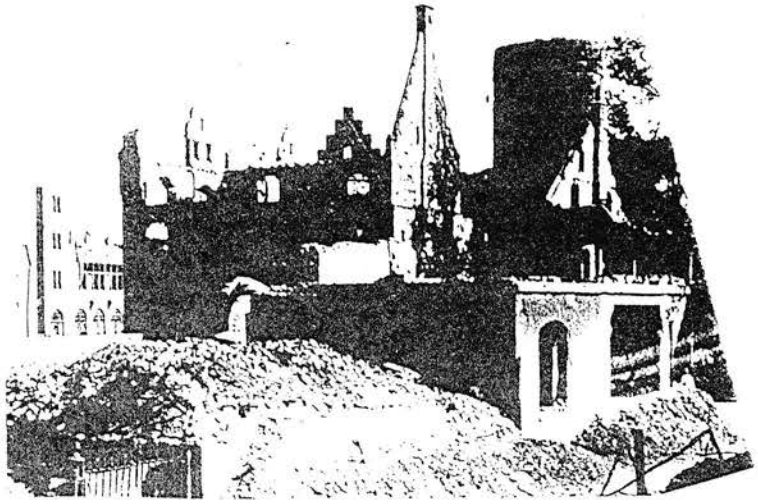

DEM ANDENKEN LIEBIGS


Zehn Pfennig
10 Pfennig Gutschein
10 Pfennig 2003
Justus Liebig



Giessener Briefmarken-Ansichtskarten-und Notgeldausstellung vom 2.-4. Juli 1921.





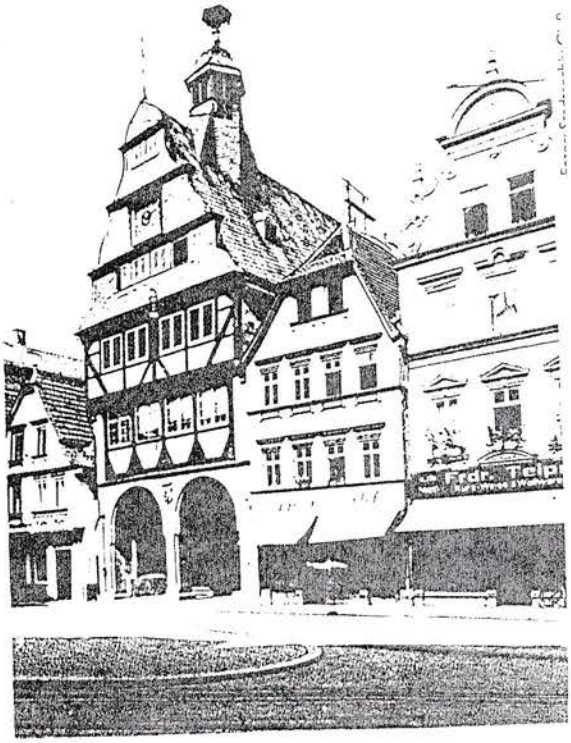
called GIBANA 1921. Good only at the show was a set of 10, 25 and 50-Pfennig Notgeld pieces, again with views of the town.

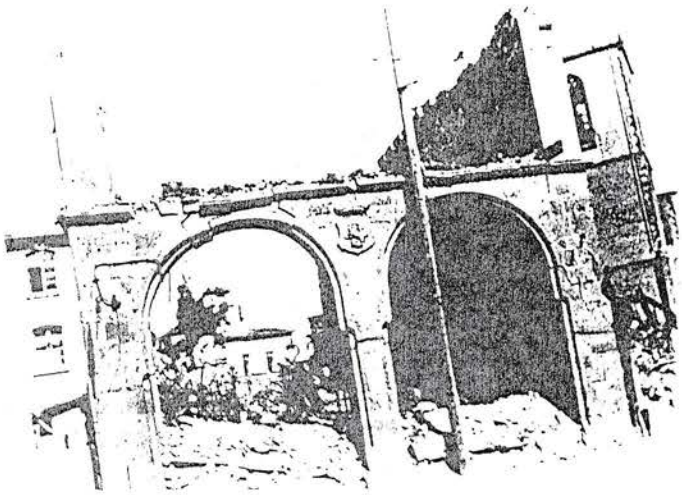
On page 2 are shown notes of the 1921 set. At the top is a scene from the Liebig laboratory and view of the Liebig museum. At center left is a pre-war statue of Liebig. Roman dieties were at the base of the monument, Ceres, Deity of Growth, and Minerva, Deity of Wisdom.

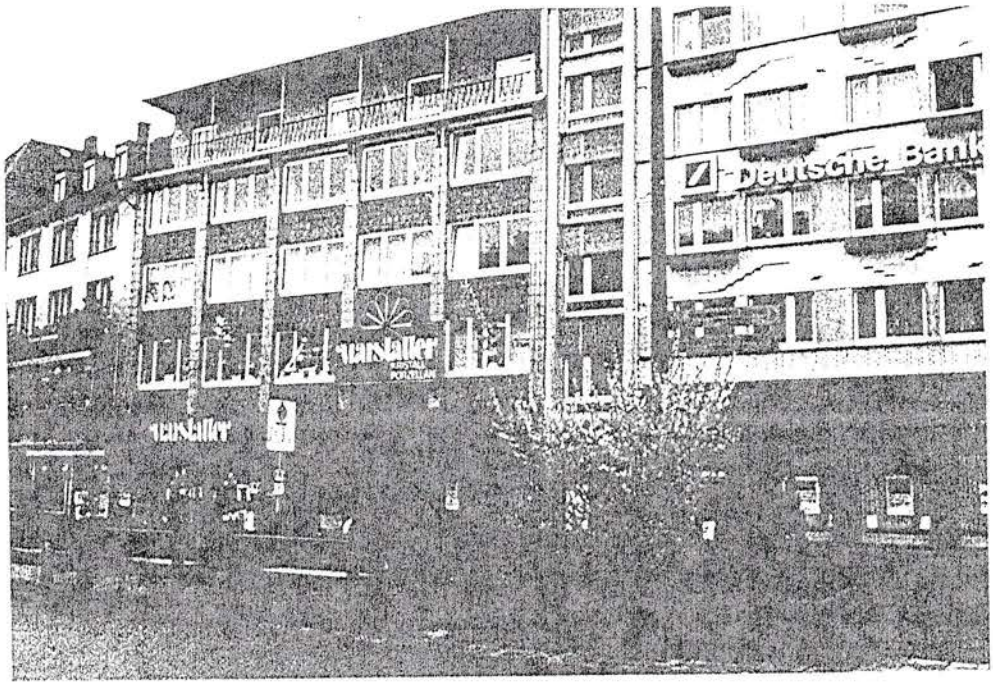
During the bombing in 1944 it was destroyed; only the head survived, now mounted in the monument in the center. A current view of the museum is at center right. Below is a portrait of Liebig and the arms of Giessen at left and Hesse at right.

On page 3 at the top is the face of the 25-Pfennig 1921 note, depicting the old castle. In 1363 the Count of Hesse


Fünf Mark
Gültig bis 1. Februar 1919
Verlängerung der Einlösungsfrist bleibt vorbehalten.
Gießen, 1. Nov. 1918
Der Oberbürgermeister
№ 04726






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lived there. From 1893 to 1905 it was rebuilt in its neo-renaissance style. Today it is a museum, pictured at left; at right is the scene after bomb damage.

The Rathaus or city hall of Giessen is shown on the face of the five Mark note, page 4 , flanked by smaller buildings. All three were damaged in 1944 bombing, as shown at center right. Center left is a pre-war picture and below, the site today, rebuilt with modern structures.

On Page 5, Burgmannen-Haus and Wallenfels'sche Haus flank a Giessen church, shown on the 10-Pfennig GIBANA note at top. The church also appears on the face of the 5 Mark note, at left.

On the face of 20 Mark note, at right, is a panorama view to the west from Giessen, showing the church, immediately to its right, the Gleiberg, today featuring a hotel and restaurant; beyond the ruins of the castle on the Vetzberg. Rounded off in the distance is the Duensberg, 500 meters, which served as a retreat for Celts (Oppidum) in 100 B.C.

Ruins of the Celts are yet visible.

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Upton, "Emergency Coins of Germany," metal and porcelain, 1970, 200ppm $7.50.

AUSTRIA

RICHTER, Rudolf "Notgeld Oesterreich Deutsch-Oesterreich und Naschfolgestaaten mit Nebengebieten ab 1918" 1993 136pp $32.50. (Does not list common series notes of Austria)

DENMARK

Rixen, Dr. Jens-Uwe and Russell Rulau, "Siegs seddelkatalog Slesvig, Plebiscit zone I og II," 1970, $10

GERMANY

BAKOWSKY, Herbert, "DAS NOTGELD DER STADT FLENSBURG 1914-1923," 1975, 76pp. $10

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KISCH, Guido "War Prisoner Money and Medals." Numismatist reprint, $2.50.

LINDMAN, Kai "Das Bremer Notgeld." 1989, 112pp, $19.

LINDMAN, Kai "Celler Notgeld." 1992, 98pp $15.

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LANG, Michael, "Polnisches Notgeld des zweiten Weltkrieges," 56pp, $12.

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Pieniadz Zastepczy w Pile 1914-1923 Pila 1984 126 pp.

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Papierowy Pieniadz Zastepczy Czarnkowa i Lopiszewa Oraz Powiatow: Czarnkowskiego i Wielenskiego 1914-1920 Pila 1992 52 pp.

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Slownik Niemiecko - Polski Nazw Miejscowosci w Polsce Zachodniej i Polnocnej Pila 1992 29 pp.

All prices include postage paid. Many items out of print and cannot be replaced.

SECTIONAL MAPS of Austria and Germany in scales of 1:200,000 and 1:100,000 can be supplied, as well as city maps of major cities.

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