The Fraktur

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WASSERZEICHEN/WATERMARKS DISPLAYED

By Duane C. Riel
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Publisher: *The Dungeon Riel,* 1998

This book is an assemblage of 112 pictures of some of the watermarks which have been used in the production of papers used in the printing of German banknotes, notgeld, and inflation notes of the period covering 1914 to 1948 and displays almost all of the watermarks used for papers in the making of serienscheine as catalogued by both Kai Lindman in "Serienscheine, Band I Grundausgaben" and Manfred Mehl in "Deutsche Serienscheine von 1918-1922".

The book, "Deutsche Wertpapierwasserzeichen" by Dr. Arnold Keller and Kurt Lehrke, published in 1955 provided German language definitions for a series of 281 watermarks. Only upon trying to turn these text only descriptions of watermarks into a visualization or picture of what they should look like will you really come to appreciate the old adage, "A picture is worth a thousand words".

A second volume, entitled "Die Wasserzeichen des deutschen Notgeldes 1914-1948 Band II, Abbildungen" drawn by Kurt Lehrke, Berlin 1955, had 16 pages of illustrations of the watermarks described in Band I. But! – One source which I have read, Block's translation of Pick's preface to Teil I of "Das Deutche Notgeld Katalog, Kleingeldscheine 1916-1922", indicates that there are only 195 watermarks depicted.

What is a Watermark?

The definition of what we call a watermark is easy - it is simply an area in a piece of paper which, when looked at against a good light source is lighter than the surrounding paper and usually shows in a particular pattern. The lightening may be used to define a dark pattern such as is shown in watermark #172, the Dunkle Kreuze. How this lightened area got there is much more complex and an understanding of the methodology employed must necessarily start with the manner in which paper is produced.

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MONTHLY NOTGELD QUOTE. . .

Cuxhaven
25-Pfennig
March 1921
L-241

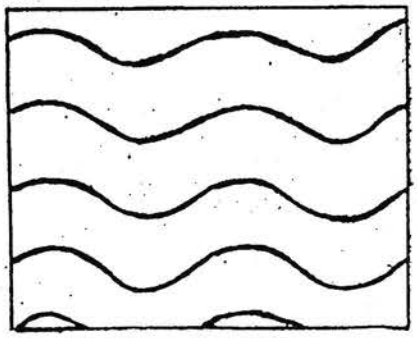
Wo sich mit Gewalt nichts
machen laesst,
ist Vorsicht und Klugheit
das Beste.

Where nothing can be
gained with force,
Caution and prudence is
the best approach.

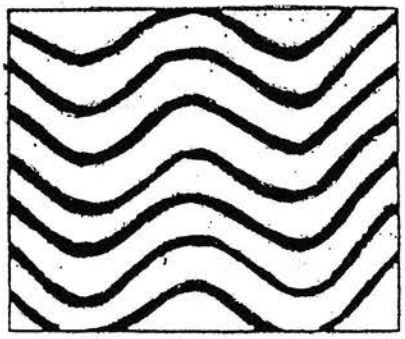


How is a watermark made?

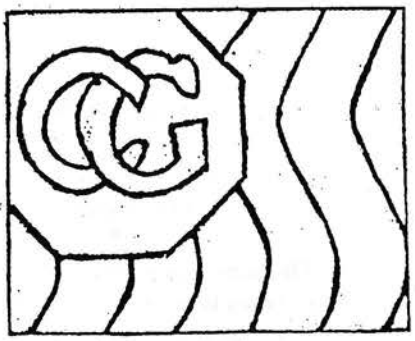
All paper begins life as wood chips, straw, reeds, rags, or virgin cotton, linen, or silk fibers or some combination thereof to which water is added while being ground and cooked into a pulpy mass. During this cooking cycle one or more chemicals are added to bleach out the color to make a white paper or dyes are added to make colored papers. Additionally other chemicals may be added to contribute certain qualities to the finished paper. At an interim stage of production, after the preliminary rolling to establish thickness and before the final drying process, as this liquid pulp begins to solidify it is passed under a rotating wire drum, called a dandy roller, which is affixed with wires and may have other high/low areas. When passed under the dandy roller, the thick, viscous mass of pulp becomes impressed with the pattern of the wires and high areas. After final drying two or three layers of density may have been formed into the paper which, when held to a light source, shows the pattern quite distinctly in this unprinted, raw paper. It is only after the printing with the application of inks that the watermark becomes more difficult to see.



Wz. 40 Lippstadter Wellen



Wz. 41 Rheinische Wellen



Wz. 43 Gerber-Wellen

Special Papers and watermark types.

Büttenpapier, a hand made, yellowish, rough paper does not usually show a watermark but often exhibits a cloudy look.

Fabrik-Wz. – This is a paper makers trademark or special pattern usually applied in the center of the sheet to identify the maker. Most notes printed on the Fabrik-Wz. paper do not show any watermark. When a watermark is seen it is usually just a part of the pattern and may be only a letter or portion thereof. This paper was most often used where only small batches of notgeld were printed.

Kartonpapier (cardboard) does not show watermarks.

Normal-Wz. – This is a mark indicating quality and was required in the center of double sheets of writing papers similar to "NORMAL 4 B/PATENTPAPIERFABRIK HOHENOFEN". This also resulted in only a portion of the watermark showing on any given note. This paper was also most often used where only small batches of notgeld were printed.

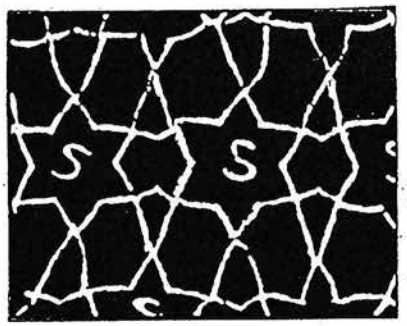
Press-Wz. – A Press-Wz is a pattern similar to a watermark but has been impressed onto the paper with great pressure after the paper is still wet but has begun drying and thus is on the surface only. These are best seen with reflected light

Wasserliniertes Papier (laid paper) and **Geripptes Papier** (ribbed paper) do not show what we consider natural watermarks as defined above, but, through other methods of manufacture show raised ribs either vertically or horizontally which seem similar.

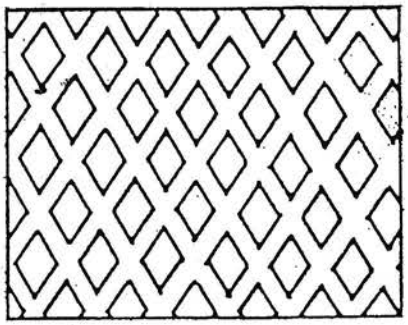
How do we best view a watermark?

A small incandescent desk lamp available priced from $5 to $50 with preferably a quartz light source is all you need. Just hold the note up to the light shielding as much of the light from your eyes as possible. Look for clear or white areas in the printing or around the edges or margins of the note to find the easiest or best-defined watermarks. It is usually not necessary to see the entire watermark because, in most cases, the catalogs list which watermarks are found on each note and then you must only differentiate between these different watermarks. The small size of the wires and the complexity of the pattern used in the dandy roller will often result in minor variations in the pattern because of manufacturing error or wear and bending through usage.

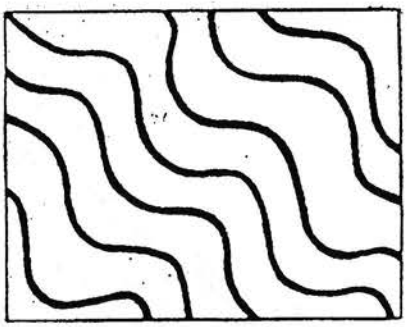
Sometimes, when a special paper or a dry pressed marking (Press-Wz.) has been used or when a high glossy surface exists, reflecting this same light source off the surface may show the pattern where transmitted light just does not.



Wz. 35 Sterne mit S
Star with "S"



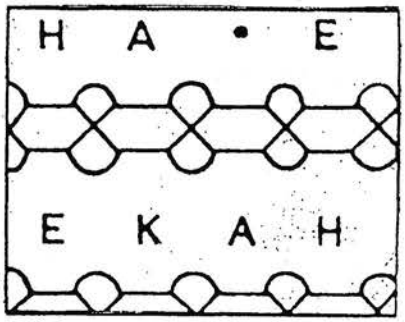
Wz. 36 Rautenmuster
Pick 'N' Diamond Pattern



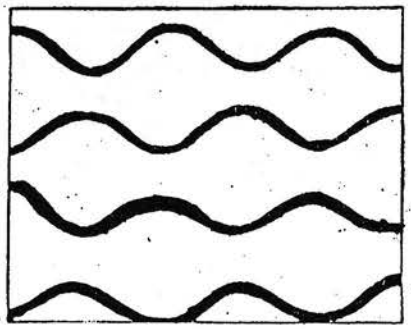
Wz. 39 Reichsdruckerei Wellen
Pick 'A' Diagonally Congruent
- Wavy Lines

Why watermarks?

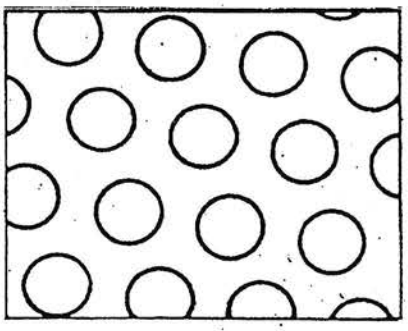
Watermarks or their absence differentiate the various papers on which banknotes, notgeld, or inflation notes were printed. Their primary purpose, however, is to provide a degree of security against counterfeiting since the complexity of the patter impress into the paper precludes the use of just any available paper by the counterfeiter and forces him to take extraordinary measures in the creation of his product. These measures become so time and labor consuming that only the higher or highest face value issues can ever be considered for counterfeiting. Counterfeiting watermarks is a very difficult task as watermarked paper requires very high press pressures due to the surface irregularity of the paper and few counterfeiters have access to this expensive machinery. It can be done with varying degrees of success, however, one method is to use an artistically applied grease pencil or a very light gray ink or, better yet, printing a light colored watermark on a thin or tissue paper and laying it in between other printed papers as a sandwich. These methods have been written up previously in both banknote trade references and in the postage and tax stamp trade so no secrets, these!



Wz. 32 EKAHA-Achterstreifen
Pick 'H' Knotted Rope & EKAHA
="Edler & Krische at Hannover"



Wz. 33 Schlangenlinien / Wellen
Pick 'J' Hrz. Opposed Wavy Lines



Wz. 34 Ringe
Pick 'L' Small Circles

Many times a different watermarked paper, used for printing an otherwise identical note, indicates that this is a second or third issue or printing. If the customer who ordered the notes did not indicate a specific need for a watermarked or security paper it is very possible that the printer is just using available overstock from his storeroom. Fractional currency certainly did not have to be protected against counterfeiting, it would be like trying to copy nickels, dimes, or quarters and the effort would cost more than the possible recovery. On the other hand, the inflation notes were often produced with exceedingly high face value denominations and could represent a valid counterfeiting target. Again, however, at the rate of inflation during the late 1922-23 time period when you figured out how to counterfeit a note and had produced the necessary plates, lo and behold, your targeted currency is now virtually worthless!

I would guess that private issue inflation notes of high value were difficult to pass in the first place. Businesses had a way of going bankrupt and it would be necessary to know your issuer quite intimately before you would accept his paper so how, indeed, would you be able to pass counterfeits. I suspect the counterfeits of government issues were another thing entirely and just as in all currencies, big government issues were probably counterfeited.

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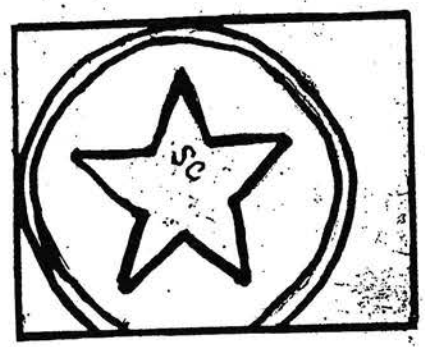
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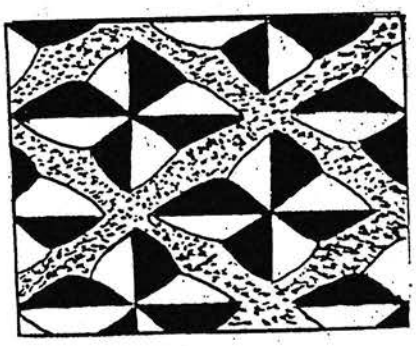
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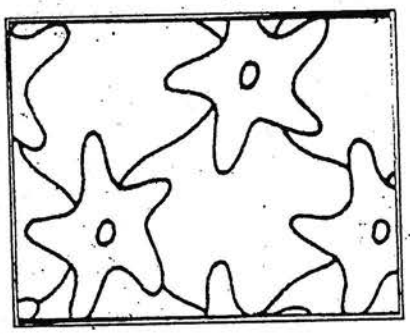
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Wz. 245 Stern im Kreisen



Wz. 247 Sternschattenmuster



Wz. 249 Seesternmuster
Starfish (sea star) design

That Notgeld Club

Jack Van Dyke, 10616 Ridge Drive, Chicago Ridge, Ill., 60415, advises us that he is hearing from Notgeld collectors interested in a club. Give him a call at 708-424-5565 to learn the name of the club, stated purposes and other details.

German Notgeld Collector's Guide, 1999 edition, has been revised by Dwight L. Musser, P.O. Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537.

Musser lists abbreviations, translations of words found on Notgeld, publications and popular categories of Notgeld collected. Illustrations are abundant throughout the publication.

Another revised publication by Musser is *German Notgeld Topical Check Lists,* where towns issued Notgeld depicting windmills, boats, issues designed by Heinz Schiestl and a review of checks (Schecks), usually issued in five values, and under alphabetized Konto letters, some covering the entire alphabet.

Musser asks $5 for each publication.

We don't have to sell our Notgeld hobby to others all the time.

It is nice to tell our story to coin clubs and collector friends.

But are you acquainted with noncollector friends? Perhaps someone with a German name?

Many personal names with a German-sounding background may connect with the name of a German town, perhaps one which issued Notgeld.

For instance, recently a friend named Sommerfeld was asked what he knew of the origins of his name. He recalled that his grandfather had told him the name had been spelled Sommerfeldt but the last letter had been dropped before he died.

"And from whence came the name"? I inquired.

"Somewhere in the eastern part of Germany, perhaps what became Poland," he told me.

A few days later I handed him a portion of a map which showed the town Sommerfeld, north of Stralsund, close to the Baltic Sea. He had not known there was a town of Sommerfeld. And I gave him a 10-Pfennig note from Sommerfeld, April 1, 1920, P-S 2382f. Money from the town, the map, both with his name!! What a discovery!

I am not saying every such gift will result in a Notgeld collector, but it is an interesting manner in which to spread the Notgeld word. Why was the note issued? What was it worth when issued? These are among the questions to be answered for him, and to add fascination to his story.

Classified Advertising

ANTI-SEMITIC (AND JEWISH RELATED) NOTGELD WANTED. Any quantity, any type, any condition from towns such as Brakel, Beverungen, Bremen, Hamburg, Sternberg, Tostedt, etc. Please send to Steve Pomex, PO Box 2, Ridgefield Park, N.J. 07660. Fax 201-641-1700 Member IBNS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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



Most Notgeld cataloguers are familiar with the Feb. 22, 1922, set of nine notes of Memel, now Lithuania, L-857.

More recently, "Souvenir Banknotes, Notgeld" were issued to support Lithuanian Culture in Lithuanian Minor (formerly East Prussia) according to Frank Passic, editor of "The Knight."

The 1993 set included denominations 10 and 50-Rurtu and 1, 2, 5, 10, 50 and 100-Rurstu. The notes can be purchased for "a couple of bucks for a set," according to Passic.

His address is 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, Mich. 49224.

We show a montage of the notes.

Schoetmar August 1921 3 Mark L-1170 III Mehl 1200.1 Orange $3*
Schuettorf Nov. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1172 Mehl 1202.1 $2.50*
Schwaan ND 10 Pf L-1173b Mehl 1203.2 Reutergeld $.75*
Schwanebeck April 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1176 Mehl 1206.1 $2.50
Schwarza/Saale Jan. 30, 1921 10 Pf L-1177 Mehl 1207.1 $1.25*
Schwarzburg/Thuer. March 1, 1922 50 (5) Pf L-1178 Mehl 1208.1 $4.50*
Schwarezenberg ND (1920) 25 Pf P-S 2332d No control Nr. Karton $4*
Schwedt ND (1921) 10, 25 Pf P-S 2337 $4.50*
Schweich/Mosel Aug. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1179c Mehl 1209.3 $10*
Schweinitz June 1, 1921 10 Pf L-1182 M. Luther Mehl 1212.1 $.65*
Schwelm Aug. 10, 1923 500,000 Mark K1923 5100a $2.25
Schwerin ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1184 Mehl 1214.1 Reutergeld $2.25*
Schwedt ND (1921) 10 Pf 10, 25 Pf P-S 2337 $4.50*
Seehausen, Altmark Feb. 5, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1185 1215 $2*
Seeth 1921 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-1186 Mehl 1216.1 $4*
Segeberg Dec. 18, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-1188 Mehl 1218.8 $1.25*
Seitenberg/Glatz Sept. 2, 1920 25 Pf P-S 2354c $2.25*
Seitenberg/Glatz ND (1921) 5 Pf P-S 2354d $2.25*
Sellin/Ruegen ND 75 (4) Pf L-1189 each with lighthouse Mehl 1219.1 $5*
Settrup ND 5, 10 Pf Encased postage stamps J.H. Tebbenhoff Menzel 12504 $65
Soemmerda Aug. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark (2) L-1200 in Tausch Mehl 1231.1 $5*
Soldin May 1921 25 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-1205 Mehl 1235.1 $4*
Siedenburg ND 75 (4) Pf L-1193 Mehl 1223.1 $5*
Siegburg March 20, 1921 50 Pf P-S 2365 $3*
Siegburg March 30, 1921 10 (3), 25, 50 Pf L-1195 Mehl 1225 $7*
Siegburg July 20, 1923 5,000 Mark K1923 4775a 1 $2.75
Siegburg July 12, 1923 50,000 Mark K1923 4775b $3.50
Siegburg Aug. 2, 1923 500,000, 5 Millionen Mark, 50 Millionen Mark K1923 4777 $10
Sigmaringen Aug. 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2369c $4*
Soemmerda/Thuer. Aug. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark (2) L-1200 Mehl 1230.1 $4*
Soerup/Angeln May 18, 1920 50 Pf L-1201 Mehl 1231.1 $2*
Soldin May 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark (2), 2 Mark L-1205 Mehl 1235.1 $8.50*
Solingen/Rheinland July 10, 1923 20,000 Mark K1923 - 4809a $3
Solingen July 10, 1923 100,000 Mark K1923 - 4809a $2.50
Solingen July 10, 1923 20,000, 100,000 Mark K1923 - 4809a $4.50
Soltau ND 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100 Pf L-1208 Mehl 1239.1 $4.25*
Sommerfeld April 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2382f $.75*
Sonderburg March 20, 1920 10, 50 Pf L-1210 Mehl 1240 Windmill Plebiscite $1.25*
Sonneberg/Thuer. Jan. 21, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1213a Mehl 12444.1 $2*
Sonneberg/Thuer. ND 50 (6) Pf L-1213b Mehl 1244.2 $4.50*
Sorau/N.L. March 1, 1921 10, 50 Pf L-1216 Mehl 1247.1 $1.25*
Speicher/Eifel Sept. 1, 1920 25 Pf P-S 2392 $1.25*
Speicher/Eifesl Sept. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1217 Mehl 1248.1 $15*
Speicher/Eifel July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1218 Mehl 1248.1 $2.50*
Speyer ND 1,000,000 Mark K1923 4286b Separatist $3.25
Speyer July 27, 1923 5,000,000 Mark K1923-4834e gold washing $5
Speyer Aug. 11, 1923 5,000,000 Mark K1923 4286b Separatist $3.25
Speyer Aug. 11, 1923 20,000,000 Mark K1923 4286b Separatist $3
Speyer Oct. 1, 1923 50,000,000 Mark K1923 4286c Separatist black zone text $3

Speyer Oct. 1, 1923 100,000,000 Mark K1923 4226c Separatist black zone text $3.50
Speyer Oct. 1, 1923 500,000,000 Mark K1923 4286c Separatist black zone text $4
Speyer Oct. 1, 1923 50,000,000 Mark K1923 4286d Separatist red zone text $3
Speyer Oct. 1, 1923 100,000,000 Mark K1923 4286d Separatist red zone text $3.25
Speyer Oct. 1, 1923 500,000,000 Mark K1923 4286d Separatist red zone text $4
Speyer July 27, 1923 500,000 Mark K1923 4834c black cont.Nr. gold seekers $3
Speyer July 27, 1923 500,000 Mark K1923 4834c red cont. Nr. gold seekers $3
Speyer July 27, 1923 5,000,000 Mark K1923 4834e black cont. Nr. gold seekers $3.50
Speyer Sept. 21, 1923 50,000,000 Mark K1923 4834n red cont. Nr. $3.25
Stade Oct. 10, 1918 10, 50 Pf P-S 2402b $4*
Stade May 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2402c $4.25*
Stadtilm May l21, 1921 50 (4) Pf L-1219 Mehl 1250.1 $5*
Stammbach May 15, 1917 5, 10, 15, 25 Pf P-S 2409h $17.20*
Stammbach July 1, 1921 10, 25, 75 Pf L-1221a Mehl 1252.1 $4.25*
Stammbach Sept. 9, 1921 25, 50, 75, 99 Pf L-1221b Mehl 1252.2 $2.50*
Stassfurt Sept. 1, 1921 25 (6), 50 (3) Pf L-1225 Mehl 1256.1 $6**
Stavenhagen Nov. 1, 1919 50 Pf P-S 2419 Fritz Reuter portrait $2.50*
Stavenhagen ND 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1226a Mehl 1257.1 $2*
Stavenhagen ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1226b Reutergeld Mehl 1257.2 $2.25*
Stecklenberg/Ostharz July 1, 19212 50 Pf L-1227a Mehl 1258 $1.25*
Stedestand Oct. 10, 1920 25, 40, 75 Pf L-1228 Mehl 1259.1 $2*
Steinbach ND 50 Pf L-1230 Mehl 1261.1 $.65*
Steinburg Nov. 12, 1918 1 Mark K1918 4470 $3*
Steinfeld ND June 30, 1920 50 Pf L-1231a Mehl 1262 $2
Steinfeld July 31, 1920 50 Pf L-1231c Mehl 1262 $.65*
Steinfeld July 31, 1920 25 (3) Pf L-1231d Mehl 1262 $6*
Steinfeld ND 75 Pf L-1231e Beschrim Mehl 1262.5 $.65
Steinfeld ND 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-1231f Segen, Arbeit Mehl 1262.6 $2.50*
Steinheim/Westfalen March 18, 1921 50 Pf L-1232 Mehl 1263.1 $.65*
Stellingen Oct. 1, 1920 50, 75 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-1234a Mehl 1265.1 $5
Stellingen ND 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1234b Mehl 1265.2 $2.50*
Sternberg ND 10, 25 Pf L-1237a Mehl 1268.1 $1.50*
Sternberg Jan. 23, 1922 50, 75 Pf Mehl 1268.2
Stettin Jan. 1, 1922 50 (2) Pf L-1239c Mehl 1270 $2.50*
Stettin Sept. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1239d Mehl 1270 $4*
Stolberg/Harz ND 25, 50, 75 (2) Pf L-12442b Mehl 1273.1 $5*
Stollberg/Erzgebirge Aug. 9, 1923 1 Million Mark K1923 4892c $2.50
Stollberg/Erzgebirge Sept. 1, 1923 100,000, 500,000 Mark K1923 44892e $5
Stollberg/Erzgebirge Sept. 1, 1923 1 Million Mark K1923 44892e $2.25
Stollberg/Erzgebirge Sept. 1, 1923 2 Millionen Mark K4892e $3
Stollberg/Erzgebirge Sept. 1, 1923 5 Million Mark K1923 4892e $2.50
Stollberg/Erzgebirge Sept. 1, 1923 1 Million Mark K1923 4892g $2.75
Stollberg/Erzgebirge Oct. 12, 1923 500 Million, 1 Milliarde Mark K1923 4892i $6
Stolp/Pommern Dec. 28, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2348b $3.25*
Stolp/Pommern ND 50, 75 Pf, 1, 1.5, 2 Mark L-1244a Mehl 1274 all Konto A $3.25*

* Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman *Serienscheine*; P-S Pick-Siemsen Circulated issues
G-Gieger *Das deusche Grossnotgeld* 1918-1922. Mehl: *Deutsche Serienscheine von 1918-1922*
M-Mueller, *Dis Notgeldscheine der deutschen Inflation, 1922.*