The Fraktur

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TSINGTAO

It was a sleepy fishing village in 1897, on the southern side of the peninsula which stuck out into the Yellow Sea. At the northern side of the peninsula the Yellow River, the Huang Ho, poured its waters into the Gulf of Chihli, garnered from its more than 2,900-mile length, the sixth longest river in the world.

On the southern side of the peninsula, almost at the mainland, at the interior of Kiaoschau Bay, was this village, Jyow Jyou, meaning "Blue Continent," to be called by the Germans Kiautschau. More modern names for the town are Chiao-hsein, Ch'ing-tao, Kiao Chau, Kiaochow, Kiautscho, and Kiau Chau, under which name five and 10-cent coins were issued in 1909.

Tsingtao, pronounced Ch'ing Dao, means "Blue-Green Island," the village perched at the point of the peninsula.

And what is a sleepy Chinese fishing village doing in a Notgeld story? Read on, patient ones.

From 1888, Kaiser Wilhelm II's naval policy included amassing Pacific island colonies. In 1895 Geographer Ferdinand Paul Wilhelm Richthofen was seeking a foothold in Hong Kong and other locations in China and the Pacific Ocean. Baron Richthofen the geographer was a distant relative of Baron Manfred von Richthofen, 1892-1918, the German air ace.

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MONTHLY NOTGELD QUOTE...



Let the sword stay put
and let shine the plow
Then we'll all have bread enow!

AUSTRIA
Krummnussbaum, Niederoesterreich
10 Heller, Dec. 1-31, 1920
Meyerbeck N 179



Marking Deutsch-Hanseatischer Kolonialgedenktag, Nov. 4, 1921, was a set of six notes which included Kiautschau, noting the Iltisberge on the bottom of the back. All notes were of the 75-Pfennig denomination.

Bringing Christianity to the heathen on the peninsula at the end of the 19th Century were S.V.D. (Societas Verbi Divini, the Society of Divine Words), Catholic missionaries P. (Pater, Father) Franz Xaver Nies and P. Richard Henle. They were of the Jesuit order. It is interesting to note that at the time Jesuits were banned from Germany.

On Nov. 1, 1897, they were murdered, just enough of a casus belli for the Germans to wrest a 99-year lease of 177 square miles at Tsingtao. Admiral Otto von Diedrichs represented the Kaiser at the court of Empress Szu Hsi in Peking, as the capital was called at the time.

Supporting the occupying force of 1,500 men in Tsingtao were His Majesty's Ships "Irene," "Princess Wilhelm" and the "Cormoran." The latter vessel had been built in 1898. It was in dry dock in Tsingtao in 1914 when a vessel of the Russian volunteer fleet, the "Ryasan" was captured by the Germans in the Strait of Korea.

The original "Cormoran" lacked the engine power needed to face war vessels of Japan and Great Britain. Guns and other useful parts were taken from "Cormoran I" and installed on the former "Ryasan," hence baptized as "Cormoran II."

The ricky-tick construction in Tsingtao soon gave way to a neat, organized village which included hospitals, schools and churches, built along a broad avenue.

To maintain the garrison, and to guarantee its safety, forts and barracks were built. Also, there were a dry dock and a new docking system.

German troops stationed in Tsingtao had brass cantine tokens, with a central value "20" and around the edge, the legend KANTINE MATR. ARTL. ABTIG. KIAUTSCHOU. The token was illustrated in the May 1968 issue of "Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine," page 769.

Dated March 1, 1907, were $1, $5, $10, $25 and $50 notes of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank, marked TSINGTAU. Other issues of $200 and $500 notes were dated July 1, 1914. Valued in taels were 50, 100 and 500 tael notes, July 1, 1914.

Issued in 1909 were five and 10-Cent copper-nickel coins, with the colony spelled KIAUTSCHOU.

German governors of the enclave included Kapitan Rosendahl, 1898-1899; Kapitan Jaeschke, 1899-1901; Kapitan von Truppel, 1901-1911; and Kapitan Mayer-Waldeck, 1911-1914.

The lights began to dim on the German Pacific possessions with the onset of World War I. On July 29, 1914, Germany declared war on Russia; on Aug. 1, on Belgium; on

Dated Aug. 15, 1908, was the weekly "Amtsblatt" published by the Kaiser's Government in Kiautschou, the ninth year of publishing, number 33 for the year. The annual subscription was $2 or 4 Mark.

Amtsblatt

für das

Deutsche Kiautschou-Gebiet.

青島官報

Herausgegeben vom Kaiserlichen Gouvernement Kiautschou.

Der Bezugspreis beträgt jährlich $ 2=M 4.
Bestellungen nehmen sämtliche deutsche Postanstalten entgegen.

Jahrgang 9. | Nr. 33. | Tsingtau, den 15. August 1908. | 第九年 | 第三十三號

德歷一千九百八年八月十五號

Aug. 3 on France, on Aug. 4, Great Britain on Germany and on Aug. 23, Japan declared war on Germany. The soup had begun to boil.

The British naval forces destroyed the German wireless station on Yap Island on Aug. 12. Admiral von Spee was in the Caroline Islands with SMS "Scharnhorst," "Gneisenau" and "Nuernberg." The trio of cruisers left the Carolines on Aug. 6 for Pagan Island in the north central Mariana Islands. They were joined there on Aug. 12 by SMS "Emden," which had left from Tsingtao on Aug. 7 with its supply ships.

Had the Emden lingered at Tsingtao, it might have been able to engage HMS "Triumph" and other British and Japanese ships of war which converged on the German enclave in late August. On Sept. 2 Japanese troops landed and a general attack on the fort began on Sept. 22. The German bastion held out until Nov. 7, 1914.

Japan attacked with a force of 53,000 infantry and marines, including 1,000 British South Wales Borderers and Sikhs. There were 3,000 Germans taken as prisoners of war.

So the German forts became Japanese forts and the German barracks became Japanese barracks.

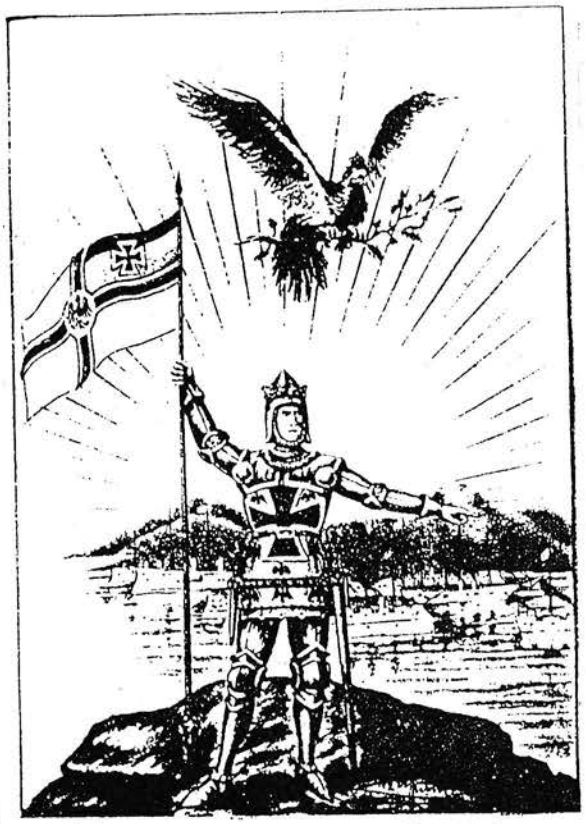
Bringing naval airwar to the confrontation was Flying Lieutenant Guenther Plueschow, who with another aviator, arrived with two Rumpler Taube aircraft in August 1914, plus an observation balloon.

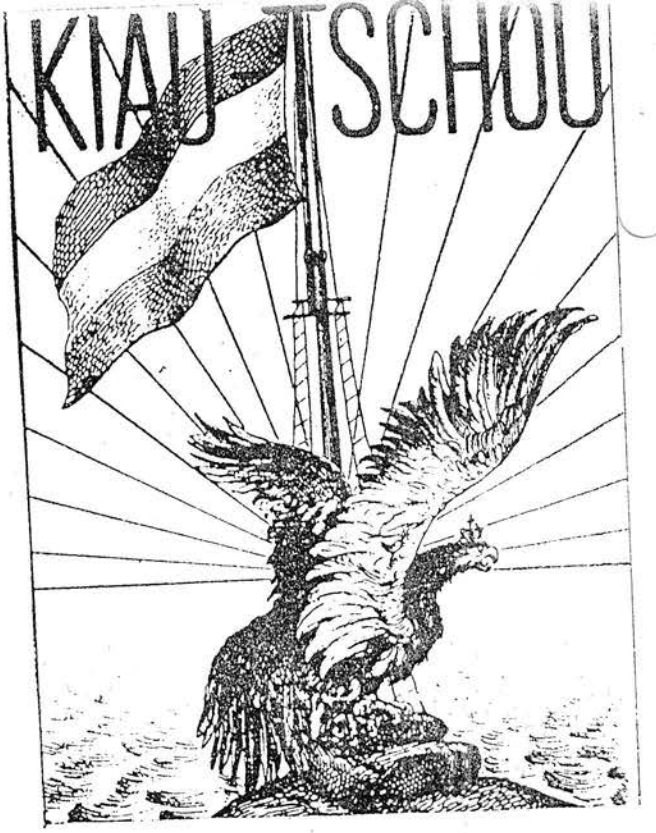
The day before the garrison surrendered, Plueschow flew out of the enclave into China and eventually returned to his homeland.

On Aug. 10, 1914, SMS "Cormoran II" left Tsingtao and roamed the Pacific Ocean as a raider, until the coal supply dwindled. The vessel headed for Apra harbor on Guam. The vessel surrendered on Dec. 14, 1914, and the crew was interned until the United States and Germany were at war, when the crew was sent to the U.S. mainland for safekeeping.

For our metal Notgeld readers, we will mention that some of the German vessels mentioned had cantine-type brass tokens inscribed with their names. These are treasured by many collectors of metal emergency money.

Japan held Tsingtao until 1922, when the Washington Agreement placed it in the hands of China. During the Chinese-Japanese war 1938-1945, it was again occupied by





Reminiscent of some Plebiscite notes were posters which emphasized German power and authority in the occupation of Kiau-Tschou, as spelled on one poster.

Japan.

Seven years after Tsingtao left the control of Germany and almost as it was reverting from Japanese ownership to China, from Berlin on Nov. 4, 1921, was issued a six-note set of 75-Pfennig notes. They marked the Deutsch-Hanseatischer Kolonialgedenktag, L-83a.

A view of the bay and surrounding hills, including one of the tallest named "Iltisberge," appears on the back of the note titled "Kiautschau." Some, but not all, geographic locations were given German names. In German, "Iltis" means pole cat. There was also a small river boat, the SMS "Iltis."

Though there were no German forces in Tsingtau after 1914, even in 1976 there existed an organization of veterans of the occupation, called "Tsingtau Marinekameradschaft;" a Herr Walter Keifer was the president. Perhaps this is comparable to the current "China Marine Association," composed of veterans of American forces in China. Are there any readers who served in China?

American forces, mainly U.S. Marines, occupied Tsingtao in September 1945, and remained until 1949. Included in the occupying forces was the 22nd Regiment of the Sixth Marine Division, who occupied barracks on the Tsingtao airstrip.

Suburbs of Tsingtao include Ssu-fang and Ts'ang-k'ou. Industries include cotton and paper mills, shipyards, locomotive and rolling stock for railroads and a rubber tire factory. There is an Institute of Technology and the Shantung University. Natural resources include salt and the fishing industry.



The coastline of Kiautschou - Tsingtao is shown on a map of the area; scale 1:50,000. In the lower right corner is a reference to Iltis-B., mentioned on the back of the 75-Pfennig note.

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(An extensive bibliography can be furnished serious students who wish to pursue this topic)

Thanks to Fred Borgmann and Reinhold Jordan for filling in details and supplying reference material.

With the June issue of THE FRAKTUR we completed four years and begin our fifth with this issue. We appreciate those who have supported us, contributed to our issues and overlooked our shortcomings.

From 1920 to the mid-1960s the Notgeld name was Keller; another was Carl Siemsen; and in the 1970s, the name on our tongues was Battenberg.

We sadly report that Ernst Battenberg died on May 8, 1992, in Munich, a victim of cancer. In his jovial moods he told of his life in America, a guest of the United States while he lived in two prisoner of war camps. It is said that he returned reluctantly to war-torn Germany, after riding out the war in the United States.

It was my privilege to meet Herr Battenberg in Munich in 1975, when he drove me to the home of Albert Pick. His VW bug was never locked; why lock it when that huge dog sat on the front seat?

It was the Battenberg publishing firm which reprinted many of the Keller catalogs, plus a complete work-over for the volume dealing with circulating small value notes issued from 1916-1922, brought up to date by Carl Siemsen and Albert Pick.

Post-World War II Notgeld and Concentration Camp issues were new efforts published by Battenberg. Other publications by the firm included books on a variety of collectibles and a large atlas. As volume 8 of a series, "Kleine Numismatische Bibliothek," he published the work of Hermann Krause, "Numismatic Dictionary," a bilingual effort. Publication date was 1971.

On his last visit in Iola he was asked about the possibility of a new issue of his reprints, most of which were long out of print. He did not totally dismiss the idea. He did say that he thought if he did publish again, all the volumes would be offered as a single lot, that no individual copies would be sent out.

Hermann Krause reports that he continues to work on his volume of Notgeld issued in a holder, or Tausch. He thanks those who have contributed information. The book is slated for publication by Kai Lindman.

We are reminded that a date in our Danzig story was in error. The League of Nations proclaimed Danzig a Free City on Oct. 9, 1920. The majority German population would have preferred a German connection rather than Polish. The anti-Polish feeling of the German population was a factor in Poland choosing to build the city of Gydina, outside the boundary of Danzig, just beyond Zoppot.

Minneapolis collector Olson reports that he had a Notgeld display at the Central States Numismatic Society show this spring. Among items he displayed was a 50-Mark piece from Osterwieck/Harz, made of chamois.

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