The Fraktur

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MY ENCOUNTER WITH NOTGELD-AN ULTIMATE HOBBY

BY PROFESSOR DR. TEH FU YEN

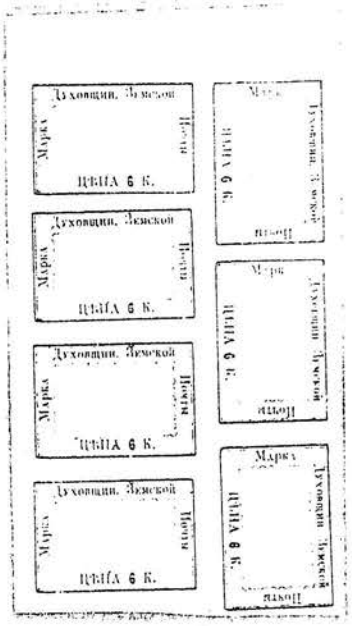
Out of many hobbies, I have been devoted to two aspects, philately and numismatics, for the past 40 years.

Collecting China's Treaty Ports first, then to U.S. and Scandinavian locals, and finally German private posts, especially with used covers, my ultimate hobby is the study of Imperial Russia Zemstvo stamps. Zemstvo stamps are also known as land or rural stamps. (Ill. Nr. 1)

These stamps were used in local districts or attached with the Russian Imperial post stamps or foreign stamps for delivery. (Ill. Nr. 2) These were issued from 1861 to 1917 by the local administration from 152 districts (uyezd). Zemstvo stamps are not listed in ordinary catalogs, such as Scott's. Instead, they are listed in Chuchin (original Russian), Herrick (English), Schmidt (German) or Bourdi (French).

Almost all important auction houses have had some sales for the Zemstovs, the recent one being the 120th Corinphila auction in 1999, which sold the famous Faberge collection. The features that interest me are as follows.

The printing techniques are very crude for the earlier issues of the districts. Dakhovshechina and Zolotnosha sheets have stamps printed both vertically and sidewise. (Ill. Nr. 3) Many other districts have sheets which are just space filling. Some stamps are numbered by hand, for example, the Krapivra 1871 issue is numbered consecutively by hand. Since the highest number of stamps is 5910, then one can determine the position of the stamp on a certain number of sheets when one looks the number of a given stamp.

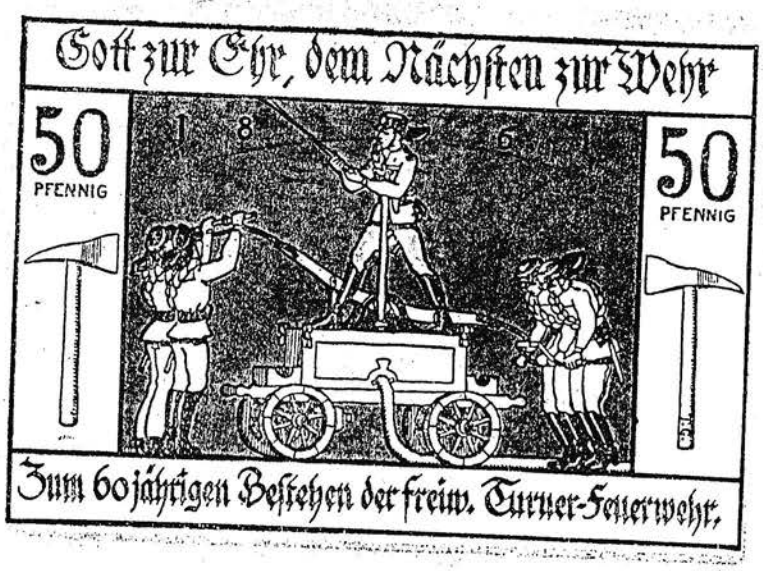


(Ill. Nr. 3) Dukhovshchina 1881 3 Kopecks Black on rose, 3 stamps printed sidewise

+

Monthly Notgeld Quote. . .

Waldenburg/Silesien
(Walbrzych, in Polish)
Sept. 19 - Dec. 19, 1920
L-1336b



Early hand-operated pumper. The note marked the 50th anniversary of the volunteer fire department.

Since some districts are small, printing is done by die transfer at a certain position on a given sheet. Due to minute errors during transfer, each position on a sheet has a different type of stamp. In some cases, it remains an insoluble problem for plating an entire sheet.

I have attempted to plate the 1873 Vessiegonsk oval-shaped stamps from almost thousands of the same stamps. The plating is not available in either Schmidt's handbooks or Avtuchov's publications in Canadian Society of Russian Philately journals. I classified the types according to minor differences (hundreds of one type). Using a statistical approach, one tentatively arranges the minor differences to form a plausible sheet.

This has been a continuous research for the past 20 years. Furthermore, the cancellation of the earlier Zemstovs was done by manuscripts. I have a Totama 1894 issue collection, which officially began in February and ended in August. I possess dozens of the hand-cancelled stamps, which the same clerk wrote on the stamps for a few consecutive weekdays including four cancellations in one day by the same clerk. (Ill. Nr. 4)



(Ill. Nr. 1)
Melitopol 1866
3 Kopecks Orange Red

German Notgeld Paper, Coins & Tokens

Notgeld Paper Money (1914-1923)

- Including WWI POW stamp-size money and 1920's seal stamps
- Prices based on various catalogs (converted US$)
- Includes notes issued by federal, state and local authorities as well as industry-issued
- Condition: VG - UNC (mostly Ave Circ)

Notgeld Coins/Tokens (1914-1923)

- Approx. 30,000 coins & 20,000 tokens issued by local governments and industry
- Coins range from 1 Pfg to DM 3 million (VF - AU)
- Tokens include various beer, industry-related, numbered sets by Trumpf, health care, Bethel, automat & entertainment (VF/VF+)

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(Ill. Nr. 2)
Novgorod 1877 5 Kopecks
On Imperial stationery to
St. Petersburg, Oct. 29, 1878



Early printing includes wood cut blocks using lamp blacks chopped on cotton paper. For colors, the 1879 Tikhvin issue is hand painted with a blue watercolor. (Ill. Nr. 5) For covers with Osa Zemstvos, the stamps were to be found horizontal, vertical or diagonal bisected, or even quadrisected. (Ill. Nr. 6)

For these covers, I was privileged to have displayed them at a Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Rossica Society Meeting. Concerning my background in Zemstvos, a Smithsonian curator asked me to produce a 30-minute program on tape and the late Dr. Thiessen at the Pittsburgh stamp show asked me to be a judge. These events occurred 30 years ago.

Secondly, I concentrated my efforts on the world's earliest coinage, particularly Greek and Roman. However, the price was too high in order to obtain a reference collection to study. Therefore, I redirected my efforts toward ancient Chinese coinage, the copper cash. I have the advantage of reading Chinese catalogs, which are not common to English such as the Schjoeth, the Lockhart and the Coole, with the last one having been published as a seven volume encyclopedia.

The Southern Song Dynasty cashes are plentiful and inexpensive. In a few months I have formulted the entire collection of annual commemorative issues from 1180-1272 A.D., without missing a single year.

I am mainly focused on studying and collecting coinage from earlier Chinese history, particularly the pre-Qin period, which is from 770 B.C. to 220 B.C., and known as the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods. During this period, China was divided into many individual states and during the Warring States Period, there were seven strong states. (Ill. Nr 7)

Each state issued its own coinage according to its geographic location. For example, the state of Qi issued a knife-shaped coin with a ring at the handle, which was issued as early as the Sixth and Seventh centuries B.C. Indeed, this is the earliest metallic coin in the world, and even earlier than the Lydia of Greek coinage, which was dated about 600 B.C. (Ill. Nr. 8)

The state of Yan, which was near the ocean, issued a great variety of knife-shaped coins, which were useful for cutting and cleaning fish. On the other hand, many inland states, such as Han, Zhao and Wei, issued a spade-like coin with a hollow head, which could be affixed to a wooden handle. (Ill. 9) The state of Chu was definitely different from all of the other states because it issued a bronze shell-like coin imprinted with a devil's face.

The state of Qin, which was located in the West and bordered the state of Zhao and Wei, utilized round shaped coins with a round hole in the center. Due to the hilly and highland contours in the state of Qin, wagons with wheels were essential for travel. Consequently, Qin became industrialized with famous horse-drawn wagons. Wheels with square holes were made to fit the wagon's square wooden axles. Hence, Qin produced a coinage of round copper coins with square-centered holes.

In fact, industrialization and healthy economic growth may have been the reason why Qin Shi Huang slowly defeated one-by-one his border states, finally all other six states and unified China. It is fascinating to know that Qin created the name CHINA.

.Thus, I can understand the ancient industrial revolution in China by studying its coinage. Due to the lack of industrialization, Qin easily conquered fishing and agricultural states. This ultimately benefited Qin by unifying the weaker states and therefore producing what is now China.

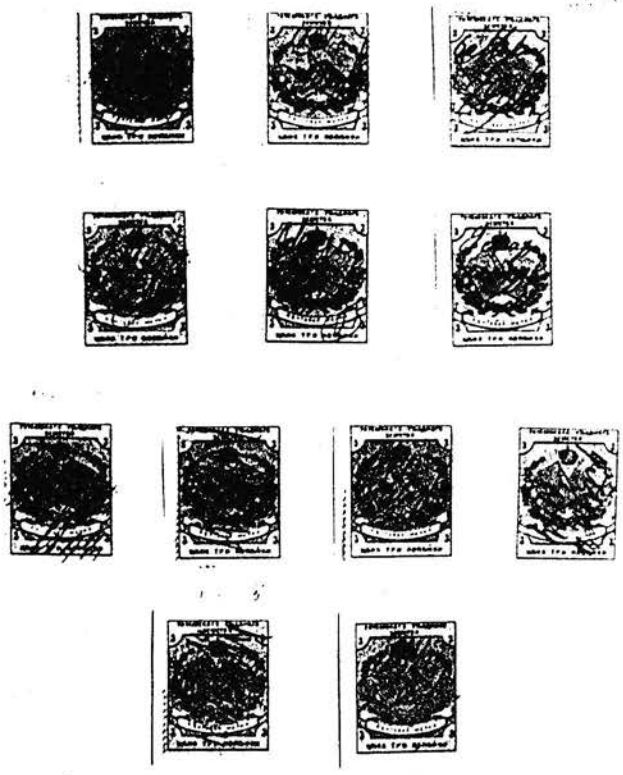
My interest in collecting ancient Chinese coins in the pre-Qin period is to study different types of characters cast on the metals. Some of the calligraphic transcriptions are very similar to turtle shell carvings, which are considered to be in the Yin period around the 13th Century B.C.

Amazingly,the format of Chinese coinage of round copper cash with the square hole from Qin Shi Huang remained unchanged for more than 2000 years, and influenced neighboring countries such as Annan, Korea, Japan, Malay, Thailand, Ryukyu and even Siberia. (Ill. Nr. 11)

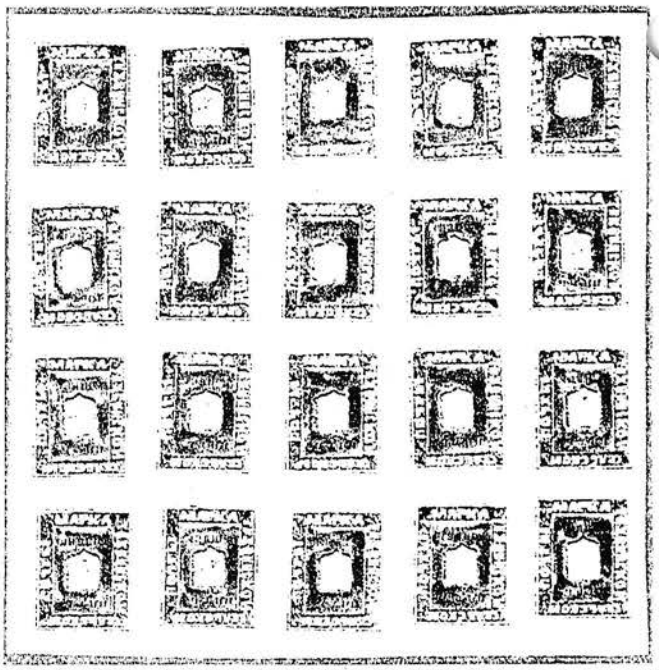
I noticed that in the past invasions of China, such as the Jins, the Western Xias, the Mongols and the Manchus, all of the foreigners' script in coinage disappeared after a short period. In all, I observed the strength of Chinese culture assimilation via numismatics.

I have described activities of both my paper collection (Zemstvo stamps) and my metal collection (ancient Chinese copper cash). Recently, I discovered Notgeld which consists of both paper, metal and many more materials, such as porcelain, wood, leather, foil, coal, silk, playing cards and cloth.

A great variety of Notgeld can be found from the following geographic locations: states, cities, towns, villages, private firms, recreation places, prisoner of war and civilian concentration camps, etc. Beer, food and canteen vouchers, streetcar and gas tokens, encased postage stamps,



(Ill. Nr. 4)
Totama 1894 used only 7 months
Cancellation signature is from the same clerk on each stamp



(Ill. Nr. 5)
Tikhvin 1879 5 Kopecks
Hand painted blue in center

military and naval canteens, are other issues, ending with the inflation notes in milliarden and billionen Mark values.

This is heaven for me with my ultimate hobby!

I have to admit that I am a beginner and do not have much experience and knowledge. The limited information that I have was learned from the publications of Courtney Coffing, published in *Coin World*, later in *Bank Note Reporter*, *THE FRAKTUR* and *A Guide and Checklist of World Notgeld 1914-1947.*

It is tragic to know that shortly the issuance of this journal will cease! Perhaps friends of THE FRAKTUR can continue to communicate with me by e-mail tfyen@mizar.usc.edu.

I value Notgeld very much because it contains many meaningful readings in the issuance of emergency monies. These readings include humor, proverbs, quotations, fairy tales, folklore, poems, quotations, advertisements, satires, comics and even Biblical verses.

For instance, on a Bielefeld issue, 500 Millionen Mark, July 1, 1923, is a quotation from I Corinthians 9:9, "For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth on the corn. Does God take care for oxen?" This verse provides comfort in times of hardship.

Finally, I conclude my story by sharing with you the poem found in my Poessneck shoe sole leather collection, a 1.5 Goldmark, Sept. 27, 1923.

Der Geldschein ist nur Scheingeld,
das nicht mehr seinen Wert haelt,
Doch Poessnecks Leder ihr achten sollt
Wie altes Geld von echtem Gold.

The paper note is only phony money,
Not living up to its value.
But do respect Poessneck's leather
Just like old money made from gold.

Vorm Kriege eine Mark ich galt
Drum schaetzte hoch mich jung und alt.
Nur wuchs danach ein Nullenschweif,
Fuer's Irrenhaus die Welt ist reif.

Before the war my value was one mark.
I was prized highly by the young and old.
Only later grew a tail of zeros.
The world is ripe for the madhouse.

Die deutsche Mark kam auf den Hund,
Doch deutscher Arm ist noch gesund!
Was der an Werten taeglich schafft,
Der Boersenschwindel ansich rafft.

The German mark went to the dogs,
But the German arm still is strong!
The values it creates every day
Are grabbed by the stock-jobber.

Kaufat Du'ne Serie Sohlengeld,
Der Wuch'rer nichts von dir erhaelt.
Geschuetzt nichts von dir erhaelt.
Vor Schnupfen und ver Reissen gar,
Denn diese Sohlen zah und dicht,
die dulden kalte Fuesse nicht.

If you buy a set of leather money,
The profiteer has no use for you.
You are protected one entire year
From catching cold and rheumatism,
Because these soles are tough and thick,
They don't tolerate cold feet.

(Translated by Hermann Krause)

Classified Advertising

ODD & CURIOUS wanted: Aluminum, leather, felt and other varieties of odd and curious Notgeld. Ken Hallenbeck, 711 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.

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. MIR 5G8.

A note from a German friend:

"Recently we met with veterans of the "Friedrich Ludwig Jahn" Korps, established in April 1945 of youngsters 16 and 17 years of age, whose mission was to defend Hitler in his underground headquarters in Berlin.

As we all know, the mission was unsuccessful. Many members were killed; others reached the Elbe River, west of Berlin, and crossed it with the consent of the American Army to the left (western) bank. But next morning all together had been transferred by the U.S. troops to the right bank and delivered to the Russians. Many of the Korps were sent to Siberia, where they died.

There were about 30 members of the Korps who met recently in Bamberg. Later my wife and I traveled to Berlin, Speyer, Rastatt, Pappenheim, Nuernberg, Bad Windsheim and Heidelberg.

* * *

A few remarks about Admiral Kolchak, mentioned in THE FRAKTUR in April, May and June, from reader Wilhelm Eglseer, Bonn.

"The Czech legions had a secret agreement with the Bolsheviks that the Czech legion, fighting on the side of the "Whites," will betray and surrender their high Commander Kolchak to the Soviets, in order to be allowed to pass the front and travel on to the newly established Czechoslovak Republic.

"And by the way, they took all the gold and foreign currency available on the White side with them!"

* * *

There is a matter which we should discuss. I have said many times that I do not give out my mailing list.

I have an arrangement with Krause Publications, Iola, to issue a second edition of *A Guide and Checklist of World Notgeld 1914-1947,* first published in 1988. Part of the agreement for publication is assistance in promoting the volume, including prospective names. If for some reason you do not wish to be on the mailing list, please notify me so I can delete your name. The book will not be available through THE FRAKTUR.

***

"Notgeld made to be separated into smaller Denominations" is the title of a listing provided by specialist Dwight L. Musser, P.O. Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537.

A trial listing of Anti-Semitic paper Notgeld has been prepared by Musser, with Bid and Asked prices, as well as a column showing the pr ice of the last transaction he handled. Persons wishing Notgeld from any of the 13 towns listed are invited to make an offer to Musser; Persons wishing to sell any of the notes indicates the price they want for the note. When the prices meet, the sale is made, and Musser charges each party 10 percent of the transaction.

***

We continue to receive inquiries about maps. For several years I have carried German maps which divide the country into some 59 sections, at a scale of 1:100,000. Collectors might want to start with a map from the area from which their ancestors came, or where they have visited or been stationed with the armed forces, or where they would like to go on their next visit. Also available are city maps from many places. When items are not on hand, I have very good sources.

***

A good number of our readers now have received their third edition of Kail Lindman's *Serienscheine,* released this year. Some can compare with the 2nd edition, released in 1989. We would appreciate comments about the volume.

Rottenburg/Neckar Jan. 2, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2227d green $1.50*
Rottenburg/Neckar Jan. 2, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2227d red $1.50*
Rudelsburg ND 50 (4) Pf L-1113 Burgwirt $6*
Rudolstadt ND 50 (10) Pf L-1116a all same control Nr. $7.50*
Rudolstadt Aug. 16, 1921 75 (4) Pf $2.50*
Ruegenwalde Oct. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2232n $1.25*
Ruegenwalde Oct. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2232p $1.25*
Ruhla May 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2235 $1.25*
Ruhla April 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf $10*
Saarburg ND 50 Pf L-1126 $.65*
Saalfeld April 15, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1125a $2
Saalfeld April 15, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-1125c $2*
Saalfeld April 15, 1921 75 (5) Pf L-3.25d $2.50*
Saarbruecken Dec. 13, 1916 50 Pf P-S 2242f $2.50
Saarbruecken Nov. 25, 1919 10 Pf P-S 2242c $2
Saarlouis Oct 1919 10 Pf P-S 2247e (today Saarlautern) $2.50*
Sachsa, Bad April 1, 1921 10, 50 Pf L-1127a $1.35*
Salzburghofen 1920 1 Pf P-S 2248a Karton $2
Salzburghofen 1920 1, 5, 20 Pf P-S 2248 Karton $4
Salzig, Bad April 25, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1128 $1.25*
Salzuffen, Bad May 1921 10, 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1129 $2.50*
Salzwedel March 20, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1132 $2.75*
Sangerhausen 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf March 26, 1921 L-1133 $5*
St. Andreasburg/Harz Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75, 100 Pf, 3 Mark Mushroom L-1134 $13
St. Blasien July 1, 1920 P-S 2259 50 Pf $3*
St. Goar Oct. 15, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2260 $1.75*
St. Goar ND (1920) 50 Pf P-S 2261 $2*
St. Magnus Nov. 9, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-1136 $6.50*
St. Toenis Nov. 5, 1920 25 Pf L-1137 $2*
St. Wendel Nov. 1, 1919 25, 50 Pf P-S 2262 $4*
Satrup May 26, 1921 50 Pf L-1139*
Saulgau Feb. 15, 1918 10 Pf P-S 2265b $1.50*
Schaala Aug. 15, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1140 $1.35*
Schalkau/Thuer. 1918 50 Pf P-S 2268a $3*
Schalkau/Thuer. 1920 50 Pf P-S 2268c $3*
Schalkau/Thuer. ND 50 (6) Pf L-1141 $4*
Scheessel Jan. 1, 1921 25 (IIA), 50 (IIA, IIIB) Pf L-1144a $4*
Scheibenberg July 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1145 $4*
Schierke/Harz April 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1149 $4.50*
Schleiz Aug. 23, 1919 10, 50 Pf P-S 2287f Die Alte Muenze $2.25*
Schleiz Dec. 1, 1921 50 (8) Pf L-1150 $6*
Schleswig 1918 2 Mark Geiger 474 $4*
Schleswig ND 25 Pf P-S 2290a Map $1.50*
Schleswig 1920 50 Pf P-S 2290g $1.25*
Schleswig May 31, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2290h Karton $1.25*
Schleswig ND (1921) 25 PF P-S 2290i $1.50*
Schleusingen ND 5, 50 Pf P-S 2292 $7*
Schleusingen ND 20, 25 50 (2), 75 Pf L-1151 $3.25*
Schliersee June 15, 1921 25 Pf L-1152/1 $1.35*
Schlossvippach Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1153 $18*
Schmoelln 1921 20, 25, 75 Pf L-1159a $2.25*

Schmoelln 1921 50 (4) Pf L-1159b $.65*
Schneeberg 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1160 $4.50*
Schneeberg-Neustaedtel ND (1918) P-S 2303 $4.50*
Schneidemuehl ND 50, 75 Pf, 1, 1.50 Mark L-1161a ask for needed Konto # $2.65*
Schneidemuehl ND 25 Pf L-1161b various Konto # available $1.25*
Schneverdingen Feb. 25, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1163a $1.35*
Schneverdingen Feb. 25, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1163b $1.35*
Schobuell June 1, 1921 25 Pf L-1164b $2*
Schoebuell June 1, 1921 75 Pf L-1164c $2*
Schoenberg ND 25, 50 Pf L-1165a $2.50*
Schoenberg ND 50 Pf L-1165b Reutergeld $.75
Schoenebeck/Elbe ND 50 (3), 75 Pf L-1166 $12.50*
Schoppenstedt ND 50 (10) Pf L-1169 $7.50*
Schoetmar August 1921 3 Mark L-1170 $1.25*
Schuettorf Nov. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf 1 Mark L-1172 $2.75*
Schopheim/Baden April 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1171 $8*
Schopfheim/Baden Oct. 12, 1922 500 Mark Mueller 4140a $5
Schwarzburg/Sondershausen Nov. 26, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2330 $2.25*
Schwarzburg/Sondershausen May 1, 1921 10 Pf P-S 2331 $1.25
Schwarzenberg/Sachsen ND P-S 2332b $1.50*
Schwerin/Mecklenburg-Schwerin ND 50 Pf P-S 1351a $.65*
Schwerin/Mecklenburg-Schwerin ND 10 Pf L-1184 Reutergeld $.75*
Schwaebisch-Gmuend ND to Feb. 1, 1919 5 Mark Geiger 4486 w/control Nr. $6.25
Schwabisch Gmuend Sept. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-1175 $.75*
Schwarzburg/Thuer. March 1, 1922 50 Pf L-1178 $.75*
Schwedt ND (1921) 10, 25 Pf P-S 2337 $4.50*
Schweich/Mosel Oct. 1, 1920 25 Pf L-1179b $3.25*
Schweich/Mosel Aug. 1, 1921 10 Pf L-1179c Blacksmith $3*
Schwetzing Nov. 9, 1922 20, 100 Mark Mueller 4215 $12.50
Seelow/Lebus Juily 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 12198b $2.50*
Segeberg Dec. 18, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-1188 $1.25*
Segeburg Dec. 18, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-1188 $1.25*
Seitenberg/Glatz ND (1921) 5 Pf P-S 2354d $2.25*
Sellin/Ruegen ND 75 (4) Pf L-1189 $5*
Settrup ND 5, 10 Pf Menzel 12504 Encased stamps J.H. Tebbenhoff $65
Siegburg March 20, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1195 (also P-S 2365) $2.50*
Sigmaringen Aug. 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2369c $4*
Simmern Sept. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2373a red cont. Nr. $2.50
Simmern March 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf P-S 2373c $2.50
Soemmerda/Thuer. Aug. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark (2) L-1200 In Grey holder, $6*
Soemmerda/Thuer. Aug. 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf 1 Mark (2) L-1200 $4*
Soldin May 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf 1 Mark (2), 2 Mark L-1205 $8*

Porcelain plaque: Meissen mark, red biscuit, 130 by 193 millimeters, 5 1/8 by 7 1/2 inches, depicting the bust of Werner von Siemens, facing right, in memory of his perfection of an electric dynmo in 1866. $110 postpaid.

JUST RECEIVED; *Das Papiergeld der deutschen Eisenbahnen und der Reichspost,* Mueller-Geiger 268 pages $25 Postpaid.

*Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman *Serienscheine*; P-S Pick-Siemsen Circulated issues
G-Gieger *Das deutsche Grossnotgeld* 1918-1922.
M-Mueller, *Das Notgeldscheine der deutschen Inflation, 1922.*