The Fraktur

VOL. IX, NR. 8 August 1996

SPA

There may be many spas in Europe but there is only one Spa.

We are speaking of Spa, Belgium.

The grandfather of all spas, if in name only, is not perhaps the oldest, the largest or cheapest source of hot and cold baths and mineral waters. But the ornate architecture, local entertainment, multiculture milieu and mild weather has been bringing visitors to the province of Liege since the Celts enjoyed the waters before the Romans.

For those who cannot journey to the town of about 10,000 population to test the waters, they can probably reach for a bottle of the water in their favorite watering hole. It is named SPA.

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MONTHLY NOTGELD QUOTE. . .







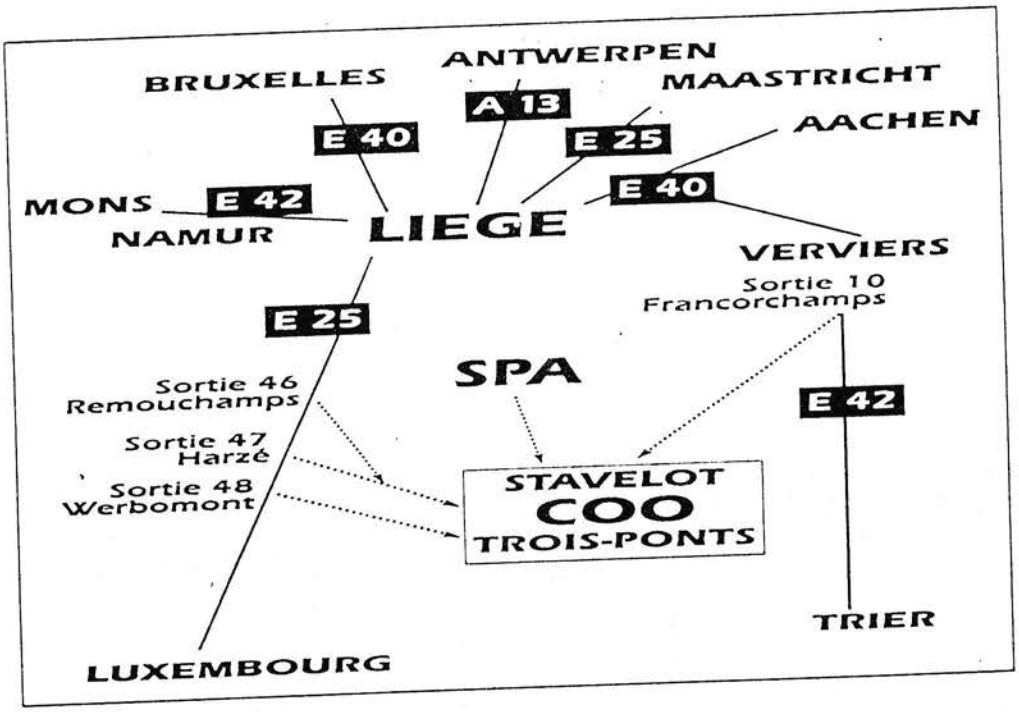
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A pantomime in three panels does not need the Platt-deutsch explanation shown. The weary traveler, pulled by his mule, enters the town. He engages in a libation. He expires.

The province of Liege, in which Spa is located, has 1,497 square miles compared to the 1,214 square mile area of Rhode Island, with about the same population as New Mexico. The country of Belgium has 9,694,991 population, close to that of the state of Michigan, but with a land area of 11,781 square miles, slightly larger than to that of the state of Maryland with 10,577 square miles.

Look for the history of the nation of Belgium and you begin in 1830. Look for the history of the people of Belgium and you begin with the Celtic Belgic tribes of the area.

Then come the Romans led by Emperor Domitian, who ruled from 60 to 96 A.D. And the Romans enjoyed the waters at Spa, at the confluence of the Wayai and Picherotte rivers. Domitian created the provinces of Lower and Upper Germany, carved out of Gallia Belgica.



By 1830, the land had been ruled by the French, Dutch, Germans, Austrians, and Spaniards, each one leaving their imprint of language, culture and customs. Even today, there are the language areas where French is spoken, the Walloon, and Dutch, the Flemish. Look at the coins and paper money of Belgium today, and you will note the bilingualism.

An early visitor to Spa was Marguerite of Valois, 1553 to 1615, Queen of Navarre, daughter of Henri II of France and Catherine of Medici. In ensuing years, impetus to the popularity of the site came from the cold carbonic waters, teeming with carbonate of iron, soda, lime and magnesia, which were recommended for hysteria and female disorders, according to "Cook's Tourist Handbook,"a 1901 guidebook printed in London.

Visiting in Spa while Queen of Sweden was Christiana. She ruled as queen from 1632 to 1654; in 1650 she was named King.



Le Pouhon
Pierre le Grand

But the glory years of Spa were in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Some of the great mansions and buildings of the city date from this period. The grand style of the main water building and the casino across the street set the style of similar buildings in other European watering spots. High stakes gambling went on, whether the player offered rubles, piastres, ducats, francs, pounds or marks.

Spa was visited by Peter the Great of Russia in 1717. Today, the central mineral water building, centrally located and opposite the casino, is named after him, Le Pouhon Pierre le Grand.

Testing the waters in 1868 was Marie Henriette, Queen of Belgium, who left her name on one of the fountains in the suburbs of Spa. In 1901, visitors to Spa were encouraged to take a two-hour tour (costing six shillings for a one-horse carriage) to visit five fountains on the edge of the town: Le Tonnelet, La Source Marie Henriette, La Sauveniere, La Geronstere and Le Barisart. Today a small railway traverses the distance.



La Cascade Monumentale

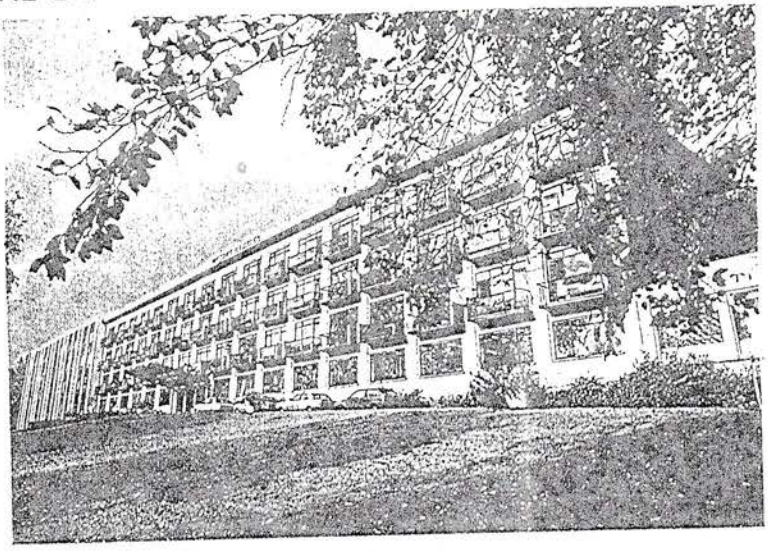
Last of the crowned heads of European houses to visit Spa was one who was soon to lose his crown. Wilhelm II of Germany, 1859-1941, grandson of Victoria of Great Britain, abdicated his throne on Nov. 9, 1918, while with the German army headquarters in Spa. He moved to Doorn, near Utrecht in The Netherlands, where he died.

Today one can pause at Le Pouhon Pierre le Grand or Le Pouhon Prince de Conde (named for Louis Joseph de Bourgon, Prince de Conde, 1736-1818) and have a glass of cold mineral water for about seven Belgium francs, some 22 cents in U.S. funds.

"Le Papier-Monnaie Belge de Necessite de la Guerre 1914-1918" was printed in Antwerp in 1952, by R. de Martelaere and J. Mertens. The volume, which included notes of Spa, was translated to German by Dr. Arnold Keller and Wladimir Ouchkoff and into English in 1974 by S.P. Serxner, Raleigh.

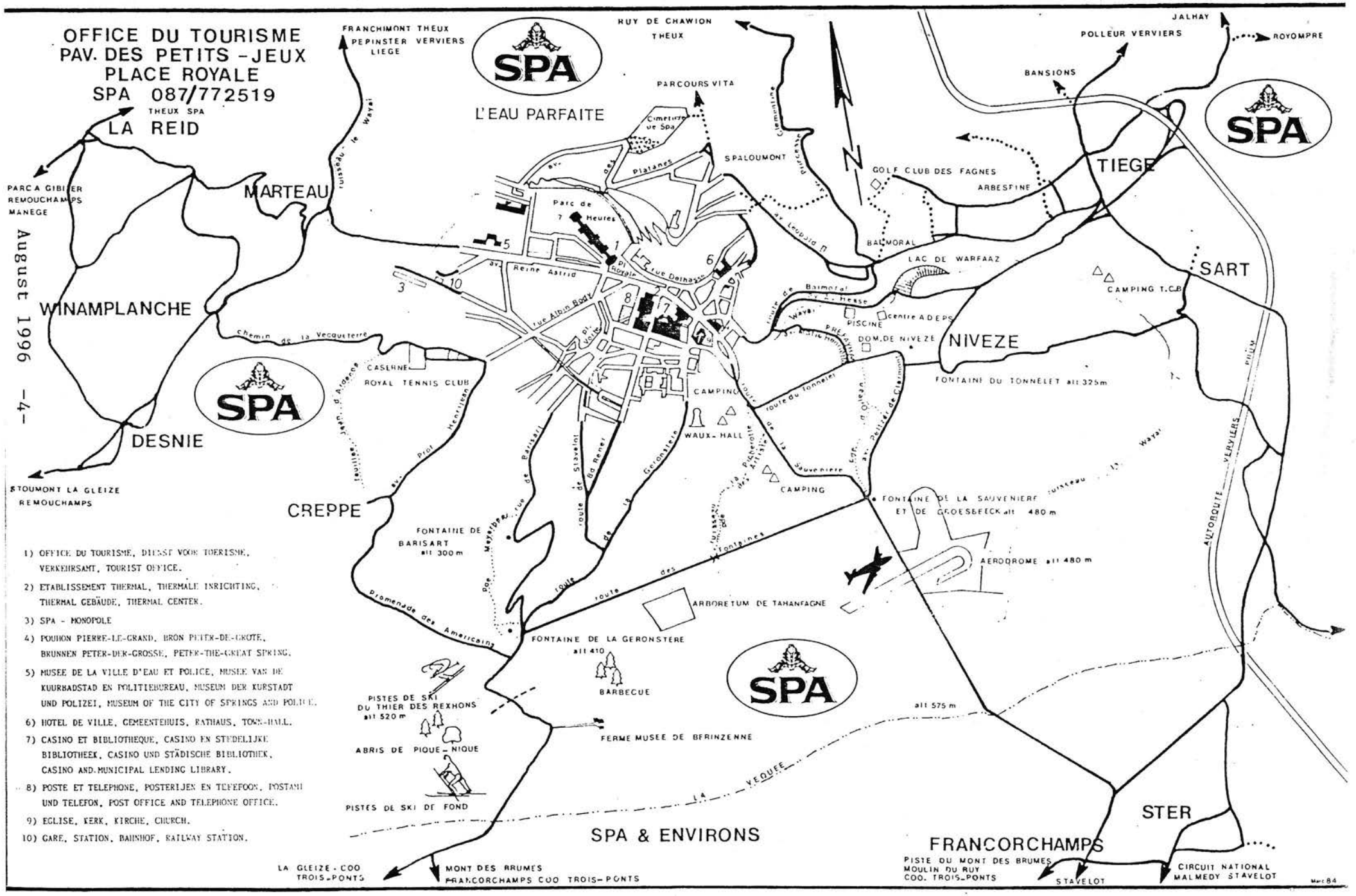
Paper emergency money notes of Spa included the denominations 20, 25 and 50 Centimes and one and two Francs, listed by Jacques Schulman in his April 1916 catalog, "La Guerre Europeenne 1914-1916," printed in Amsterdam.

CENTRE DE THERMALISME "LES HEURES CLAIRES"





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Notice has been received of the passing of Karl Lund, writer of several books and features about German and Danish paper money in the area of Schleswig-Holstein.

Mr. Lund was born May 1, 1913, a retired teacher, the son of a teacher. In 1971 the Proeh Verlag, Berlin, published his 83-page volume, "Das Papiernotgeld von Schleswig-Holstein und Hamburg 1914-1923."

Other features were published in both German and Danish. Mr. Lund had an extensive collection of paper Notgeld from the area, which has been donated to a museum in Flensburg, Germany.

Mr. Lund was a resident of Vojens, Denmark. Date of death was Jan. 3, 1996.

With a theme this month from Spa, Belgium, it is appropriate to mention a feature by Farod Salem in the "International Bank Note Society Journal," Vol. 35, Nr. 2.

Salem comments about the World War I money shortage, "During this period the lack of currency made itself felt in every quarter. Deposits were blocked by the banking moratorium, and this led to some 630 local authorities and hundreds of welfare associations and businesses issuing emergency notes."

Also illustrated and described in the Journal are Dutch steel distribution chits from the World War II period.

Every collector who has any kind of a collection has been approached, in person or by mail, by a person who has something similar to his hobby. The first and main question is "What is it worth?" Fred Schwan, Port Clinton, Ohio, struggles with the reply on the pages of the IBNS Journal.

One answer may lie in a current catalog. Then Schwan questions the source of information of the cataloger. Did a dealer with a large stock supply prices, and have a vested interest? Time lags may account for some differences. Or an emotional factor may come in, such as a note from one's home town, or a favorite portrait, perhaps roses or horses or from a popular painting.

Do auctions set a price level for a book or a coin or a note? There is always the person who desperately wants an item, and bids triple or more than what he thinks it may be worth. Or the person who sits in the back of the auction room with his hand up until the piece is knocked down to him. What is it worth on resale?

Or does the one doing the pricing consider prices in his own country, but perhaps not from others, or the country where the note was issued?

And for the buyer of modern paper money, a high-value note may be costly while it is current in circulation, but what is it worth when it is devalued?

I recall a coin show in New York City where a note sold, perhaps, for $800. It passed from dealer to dealer for a few hours, doubling. To each dealer in each transaction, it was worth what they paid for it. But after a while, such a note ceased to be a realistic buy, one which cannot realize even what was paid for it.

Schwan concludes with the wisdom of Solomon: "Please do not think that I have THE answer. Frankly, I do not even have any suggestions."

When it comes to Notgeld, too many American collectors recall when several pieces could be bought for a cent - we have reported that in THE FRAKTUR. One yardstick today is to use priced catalogs produced in Germany. It does not make sense to sell notes for less than they may cost from German sources.

Perhaps that is why Germans buy from THE FRAKTUR.

And Olaf Kiener concludes a series which has appeared in the IBNS Journal about Swiss emergency notes of World War I. John Ineson of the United Kingdom tells of a forthcoming book on notes of the Boer War in South Africa.

Annual dues for membership in the IBNS are $17.50; applications are available from Milan Alusic, P.O. Box 1642, Racine, Wis. 53401.

Again, the eve of May Day (Walpurgis Night in the Harz Mountains) in Germany was observed in Sassenburg, home of Kai Lindman. We reported on the 1995 event in our June 1995 issue of THE FRAKTUR. For 1996, Lindman reports attendees included Achim Muecke, Dietrich Frank, Erich Vornberg, Karl-Chiristian Boenke, Bernd Beyer, Guenter Stolzenberg, Walter Kirstein, Rainer Gruschwitz, Hans-Henning Mueller and host Lindman.

The evening of conviviality includes Notgeld discussion, news of upcoming Notgeld books, food and refreshment, lasting until 11 p.m. or so, by Notgeld collectors, authors and perhaps, a scattering of dealers.

The tradition of the informal event is for the persons from Sassenburg to attend a large coin show in Hannover on May 1.

Lindman commented, "The June 1996 edition of THE FRAKTUR was very interesting for me because the water-items listed are closely related to the topics of bridges and mills. I even found some new bridges and a new mill in my collection.

"But I think these are never-ending topics. I believe I have more than 200 of each one. If readers are interested in bridges and mills, perhaps they can send me a list of what Notgeld notes they have and I will check against my list, and even may supply some missing notes. My address is Postfach 22, D-38522 Sassenburg, Germany."

We appreciate the remarks made by readers to the "German Poland Notgeld" volume which listed names and locations of Notgeld issues in one part of Poland or another, mailed with the July 1996 issue with our compliments.

Orginially, the thought was to add two extra pages at the end of THE FRAKTUR. Then, as the book concept developed, we looked to 40 pages. Alas, it was 60, counting the cover.

Show it to your friends - perhaps they would like to order one.

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 MIR 5G8.

Westerhorn ND 20, 30, 40, 60, 70 Pf L-1378 $12*
Westerland 1920 50 Pf P-S 2612 $2*
Westerland Mar. 14, 1920 50 Pf, 1 Mark Plebiscite L-1381a $4*
Westerland 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-1381b $9*
Westerland July 1, 1921 1 Mark (2) L-1382 $6.50*
Wetter/Ruhr Aug. 27, 1923 100,000 Mark K-5586e $4.50*
Wettin ND 50 (5) Pf L-1384 No control Nr $3*
Wettin ND 50 Pf L-1384 Control Nr. 3427 $9*
Wetzlar/Lahn Sept. 14, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2617f $2.75*
Wetzlar Aug. 10, 1923 1 Million Mark K-5594a $2.50
Wetzlar Aug. 23, 1923 2 Millionen Mark K-5598a $3
Wetzlar Sept. 11, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-5598c $7.50
Wiedenbrueck/Westfalen Dec. 15, 1918 10 Pf P-S 2621b $1.25*
Wiedenbrueck/Westfalen July 1, 1921 50 Pf, 1 (6), 2 (6), 5 (6) Mark (19 notes) L-1386 $114*
Wiedensahl ND 50 (7) Pf L-1387 Wilhelm Busch $12.50*
Wiesbaden Sept. 1919 25, 50 Pf P-S 2625 Poor condition $.80
Wiesbaden Nov. 1, 1922 1,000 Mark K-624c $10*
Wildeshausen Dec. 1, 1921 25 (6), 50 (4), 1 Mark (4) L-1389a $8.50*
Wilhelmshaven ND 1 Mark K-518 $3.50
Wilhelmshaven June 10, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2631 $4.50*
Wilsnack ND 50 (9), 75 (5), 100 (10) Pf L-1396 $12.50
Wilster July 13, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 2635e $2.25*
Wilster Nov. 11, 1918 10 Mark K-520 Stamp cancelled $7.50
Winsen/Luhe ND 10, 25 Pf L-1397 $1.25*
Winterberg/W July 15, 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1398 $2.50*
Winzeldorf ND 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf L-1399 Red Control numbers $22.50*
Wismar ND Oct. 9-17, 1921 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark bowlers L-1400 $8.50
Wismar ND 10, 25, 50 Pf Reutergeld $2.25*
Witten Aug. 13, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-5660b tear $5
Wittenberg Invocavit 1922 50 (3) Pf L-1404 $2*
Wittenberg Dec. 10, 1920 50 (8) Pf L-1405aI Rev Decret $40*
Wittenberg Dec. 10, 1920 50 (2) Pf L-1405aII Rev Dekret $4*
Wittenberg ND 1, 2, 5, 10 Mark L-1405b $5
Wittenberg ND 10, 25 Pf Reutergeld L-1407a $1.50*
Wittenberg Jan. 20, 1922 99, 199, 299 Pf L-1407b $2.25*
Wittenberge ND 50 (6) Pf L-1406 $3.75*
Wunsiedel Nov. 11, 1918 50 (2) Pf P-S 2670 $2.25*
Wunstorf Nov. 15, 1920 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1420a $3*
Wunstorf ND 5, 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1420b $3.25*
Wustrow ND 10, 25 Pf L-1422 Reutergeld $1.50*
Wurzbach/Thuer. July 1, 1921 10 Pf L-1421 $.65*
Xanten Oct. 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf, 1 Mark L-1427 H.Schiestl $12*
Zeitz ND 50 Pf P-S 2680 $2*
Zell/W Baden Oct. 1, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-1421 $5*
Zella-Mehlis Nov. 1921 10, 25, 50 (3) Pf L-1430 $3.25*
Zerbst/Anhalt July 1, 1921 50 Pf L-1431a 1 color $1.25*
Zerbst/Anhalt July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 (6), 100 Pf L-1431b $9*
Zeulenroda Nov. 2, 1918 10, 20 Mark K-537 $7
Zeulenroda Dec. 16, 1918 10, 20, 50 Mark stamp cancelled K-536c $12

Zeulenroda Jan. 1, 1920 1, 5, 10, 50 Pf P-S 2704 $5*
Zeulenroda Nov. 1, 1921 25 (5) Pf L-1432 $3.25*
Zeulenroda Dec. 31, 1921 50 (5), 75 (5) Pf L-1432 $6.50*
Ziegenbrueck July 30, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1433 $6*
Ziesar ND 50 Pf, 1 Mark Schecks L-1435 $1.50*
Zittau Nov. 15, 1918 5, 10, 20 Mark K-539 $10
Zittau Sept. 28, 1923 100 Million Mark K-5800 $3.75*
Zoerbig ND 5 (8), 10 (4), 25, 25 (5), 50 (5) Pf L-1437 $15*
Zons/Rhein Oct. 1, 1921 50 (5) L-1438 $10*
Zossen ND Halbmondlager POW 10 Mark Campbell 3660 $17.50*
Zwenkau ND 10 Pf P-S 2730 $2.75
Zwickau ND 10 Pf P-S 2736 $1
Zwickau Nov. 1, 1918 20 Mark K-544 $5
Zwickau Nov. 11, 1918 5,10, 20 Mark Punch Cancelled K-543 $9
Zwickau Sept. 15, 1922 500 Mark K-661 $2.75
Zwickau Aug. 24. 1923 1 Million Mrk K-5833c tears $1.25
Zwickau Aug. 24, 1923 1 Million Mark K-5833f $4.50

METAL NOTGELD

Aschersleben 1915 1/2 Brot marke Iron round M-45 $20
Apolda 1918 5 (hole), 10 Pf Iron round M-369 $3
Arnstadt ND 5, 10 Pf Iron round M-394 $5.25
Arzberg 1917 5, 10 Pf Zinc round M-410 $3
Aschaffenberg 1917 5, 10 Pf Zinc round M-436 $3
Backnang ND 5, 10 Pf Iron round M-561 $5
Balingen 1918 10, 50 Pf Zinc round M-593 $7.50
Bamberg 1917 5, 10 Pf Zinc octagon M-601 $4
Barmen 1917 10, 50 Pf Zinc round M-703 $3
Beckum 1917 5, 10, 50 Pf Zinc round M-771 $40
Beilngries 1917 5 Pf Zinc octagon M-788 $27.50
Belgern 1917 5, 50 Pf Zinc octagon M-794 $55
Bensheim 1917 5, 10 Pf holed, octagon; 50 Pf Zinc round M-803 $5
Bergzabern 1917 50 Pf Zinc round M-832 $3
Berlin-Wilmersdorf ND 1, 2,5, 10, 20, 50 Pf Zinc octagon M-1033 $700
Bielefeld 1917 5 Pf octagon; 50 Pf round zinc M-1505 $5
Bingen 1919 10 Pf Iron round M-1531 $2
Bitterfeld 1917 10, 25, 50 Pf Zinc octagon M-1578 $7.50
Bochum 1918 10 Pf Iron round M-1645 $1.50
Bottrop 1917 10 Pf Zinc round M-1846 $3
Braunschweig 1918 5 Pf Iron round M-1925 $2
Breisach 1918 5, 10 Pf Zinc round holed M-1957 $10
Bremen 1920 10 Pf Iron round M-2007 $2
Buedingen ND 10, 50 Pf Zinc round M-2174 $7.50
Buer/Westfalen ND 25 Pf Zinc octagon M-2186 $3

*Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman Serienscheine; P-S Pick-Siemsen
M-Peter Menzel, "Deutsche Notmuenzen und sonstige Geldersatzmarken 1840-1990" Guetersloh, Germany 1993

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