

Porcelain Coin History

By: John Paunicka



Notgeld coins are emergency issues made by states, cities, and companies during and shortly after World War I to help alleviate the coin shortage caused by the war. The state-owned Meissen Porcelain Company was one of the companies to make emergency coins. They were made of fine bone china and brown stoneware. The porcelain coins were very popular but impractical. They broke too easily. Germany was not alone in issuing porcelain coins. This particular Portugal coin was made in white porcelain by Empresa Electro-Cerâmica.



The cost of any metal in 1921 and the hyperinflation forced different German States to coin their own money. They used many different materials from paper, to coal, to wood and even porcelain. Many were very crudely made. Yet other states had their Notgeld made by Meissen. If you look closely, you will find the cross-swords symbol of Meissen. Although the use of



porcelain for coins and medals was not a new concept as Meissen had produced its first porcelain medallion as far back as 1710.

Even though prices can vary for the same piece from different suppliers, however the relative price of acquiring these items is not something to be wary of. Do your hunting and you will find the pieces your looking for at the right price. There are also gold gilded versions of this coin. But I have not been able to view any.

As these coins are handled the effect is a glazed look. The surface is not glazed so you will need to watch how you handle the coin.



The following list is arranged by Scheuch numbers (from Karl Scheuch's "Muenzen aus Porzellan und Ton", "Spenden-Medaillen aus Porzellan und Ton" and the four volume series "Medaillen aus Porzellan"). Numbers 1-586 represent coins with a monetary value or copies of old German coins. Numbers 650 and up represent medallic issues. Scheuch published his books in 1966, so newer issues have never been assigned numbers.

SCHEUCH'S LETTER DESIGNATIONS			RARITY RATINGS	
Brown Porcelain	White Porcelain	Definition		
a	n	Plain	R-1	100,001 to 641,000 pieces
b	o	Gilt Edge	R-2	50,001-100,000 pieces
c	p	Outer legends Gilt	R-3	10,001-50,000 pieces
d and e	q and r	Special Gilding (see description or image)	R-4	6,001-10,000 pieces
f	s	Green Edge	R-5	3,001-6,000 pieces
g	t	Red Edge	R-6	1,001-3,000 pieces
h	u	Blue Edge	R-7	501-1,000 pieces
i through m	v through z	Colored Decoration (see description)	R-8	201-500 pieces
			R-9	under 200 pieces

RETAIL PRICE GUIDE FOR GRADE AND RARITY OF PORCELAIN COINS

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Grade/Rarity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
EF	\$8	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$40	\$50	\$60
AU	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$45	\$60	\$75
UNC	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$50	\$75	\$100

Unusual motifs or nice decorations are worth a premium. Add 25% for sizes over 45mm. Most Third Reich/Nazi pieces command a significant premium over the prices listed above.

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