



# THE BELGIAN FRANC UNDER THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

THE BELGIAN FRANC WAS THE OFFICIAL CURRENCY IN BELGIUM WHEN, IN 1940, GERMAN TROOPS STORMED THE TERRITORY. AT THAT POINT, THE BELGIAN CURRENCY WAS PEGGED TO THE GERMAN CURRENCY AT A VALUE OF ONE BELGIAN FRANC TO 0.1 GERMAN PFENNIG.



**1.** Monogram of Leopold III, the monarch who governed Belgium from 1934 to 1951, a period that encompassed the Nazi occupation. The monogram is represented around a hole in the middle of the coin. The number three in Roman numerals—a reference to the Belgian monarch’s regnal number—is at the center of the monogram. A crown hovers over the number itself.

**2.** The lower-central section features the year the coin was minted.

**3.** The coats of arms of Brussels (to the left), of Mons (in the middle), and of Bruges (to the right), which together constituted the United States of Belgium , are located around the central hole.

**4.** The name of the emitting nation appears along the upper rim in French, *BELGIQUE*, and in Dutch, *BELGIE*.

**5.** The face value, 25 cents, is written in digits next to the fraction sign, symbol for the cent. The name of the engraver, O. Jespers, also appears on the coin.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

in 1940 Belgium had minted silver coins but in May of that year, after the Nazi occupation, the German authorities quickly withdrew them from circulation?

## NUMISMATIC SHEET

<b>VALUE:</b> 25 cents	<b>COUNTRY:</b> Belgium	<b>MINT:</b> The Royal Mint of Belgium	<b>YEAR:</b> 1942*	<b>SIZE:</b> 26 mm	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 6.5 g
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\* The date indicates the year of the first issue.

# THE FRENCH FRANC UNDER THE VICHY REGIME

DURING THE VICHY REGIME (1940–1944), NEW FRANC COINS WERE MINTED IN FRANCE. THE ENGRAVINGS OF THE WORDS LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND FRATERNITY—THE PILLARS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC—WERE REPLACED BY THE WORDS WORK, FAMILY, AND HOMELAND.



**1.** Emblem of the Vichy regime: a double-edged axe with a handle decorated with ten five-pointed stars. There are three different reliefs on the blade of the axe: one for each of the colors of the French flag. The emblem is flanked by two sprigs of wheat in the lower section.

**2.** The name *ETAT FRANÇAIS* (French State) was officially adopted when the Germans invaded and it marked among other things, the end of the republican system in the country.

**3.** The motto of the Vichy regime was *TRAVAIL • FAMILLE • PATRIE* (work, family, homeland)—values characteristic of Fascist regimes. The motto of the republic, *Liberté, égalité, fraternité* (liberty, equality, fraternity), disappeared from the French franc.

**4.** The face value of two francs is written in digits. It is flanked by oak leaves. The name of the coin and year minted appear at the bottom.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

in France, like other territories occupied by the Germans during World War II, the Nazis turned the franc into a satellite currency of the German Reichsmark? One Reichsmark was worth twenty French francs.

## NUMISMATIC SHEET

VALUE:	COUNTRY:	MINT:	YEAR:	SIZE:	WEIGHT:
2 francs	Vichy France	The Paris Mint	1943*	27 mm	2.2 g

\* The date indicates the year of the first issue.



# THE THIRD REICH'S REICHSMARK

IN 1933, WHEN ADOLF HITLER TOOK POWER IN GERMANY, NEW COINS WERE MINTED WITH MOTIFS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY, SUCH AS THE IMPERIAL EAGLE AND THE SWASTIKA.



**1.** Profile of Paul von Hindenburg (1847-1934), German military officer and president of the country from 1925 to 1934. He was responsible for naming Adolf Hitler chancellor in 1933.

**2.** Paul von Hindenburg's name and the years of his birth and death are engraved around his image.

**3.** The mint mark is between Paul von Hindenburg's neck and the engraving of the year 1847.

**4.** The imperial eagle resting on an oak-leaf crown with a swastika inside –symbol of the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), commonly known as the Nazi Party.

**5.** The swastika divides the engraving of the coin's face value, 2 Reichsmark, expressed in digits to the left, from the coin's name to the right. *Deutsches Reich* (German Reich) and the year of issue are engraved along the lower rim of the coin.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

during the Nazi regime Reichsmark coins were produced at different mints around Germany? Each mint was represented by a specific letter on the coin. The Berlin mint was letter A.

## NUMISMATIC SHEET

<b>VALUE:</b> 2 Reichsmark	<b>COUNTRY:</b> Germany	<b>MINT:</b> German Mints	<b>YEAR:</b> 1936*	<b>SIZE:</b> 25 mm	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 8 g
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\* The date indicates the year of the first issue.

# THE ITALIAN LIRA OF VICTOR EMMANUEL III

THE ITALIAN LIRA WAS LEGAL TENDER IN ITALY FROM 1861 TO 2002. FROM 1922 TO 1943, UNDER THE FASCIST REGIME, NEW COINS WERE ISSUED WITH IMAGES RELATED TO THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SITUATION.



**1.** Image of a mature King Victor Emmanuel III. His name and titles are engraved around the image: King [of Italy and of Albania] and Emperor [of Ethiopia]: "VITTORIO • EMANVELE • III • RE • E • IMP".

**2.** The name G. Romagnoli (1872-1966) is in the lower section. He was a famous Italian sculptor and medalist who directed the School of Medal Art, housed within the Italian Mint, from 1909 to 1954.

**3.** The eagle on fasces was the official emblem of the Italian Social Republic from 1943 to 1945. A number of different images appeared on the

reverses of the coins: the crowned eagle with the Savoy shield, the fasces without the eagle, and a number of allegories.

**4.** The year of issue is engraved on the left and, in Roman numerals on the right, the year of the "Fascist Era" (XVIII).

**5.** The word *ITALIA* is engraved around the shield, and beneath the fasces, the coat of arms is flanked by the *L* for liras on one side and the coin's value in digits, *1*, on the other.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

this coin's design was minted on three different pieces? The first, minted in 1936, was 99% nickel, and the other two, minted from 1939 to 1940 and from 1939 to 1943 respectively, in stainless steel.

## NUMISMATIC SHEET

VALUE:	COUNTRY:	MINT:	YEAR:	SIZE:	WEIGHT:
1 lira	Kingdom of Italy	Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato	1939*	26.7 mm	8 g

\* The date indicates the year of the first issue.



# THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC'S RENTENMARK

THE RENTENMARK WAS THE OFFICIAL CURRENCY ADOPTED IN GERMANY IN 1923 WITH THE AIM OF ENDING HYPERINFLATION. ALTHOUGH THE REICHSMARK WAS ADOPTED A YEAR LATER, THE RENTENMARK CIRCULATED UNTIL 1948.



**1.** The center of the bill includes with noticeable letters its face value, *Zwei Rentenmark* (two Rentenmark). The face value is written in digits on the upper right-hand side of the bill's face.

**2.** The text in smaller typography in the middle of the bill includes, among other things, information about the place and date of its printing (Berlin, January 30, 1937).

**3.** The text in the upper-middle section of the bill refers to the entity responsible for issuing bills—that is, the Deutsche Rentenbank, the central bank of Germany—and the text in the lower section writes out the nominal value.



**4.** The central section shows a floral motif, specifically a sheaf of corn, in a sort of circular frame.

**5.** The bill's face value is expressed in digits on either side of that sheaf of corn.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

when the Rentenmark was put into circulation on November 15, 1923, the number printed was extremely limited? The currency was backed by a mortgage on all the country's industrial and agricultural resources.

## NUMISMATIC SHEET

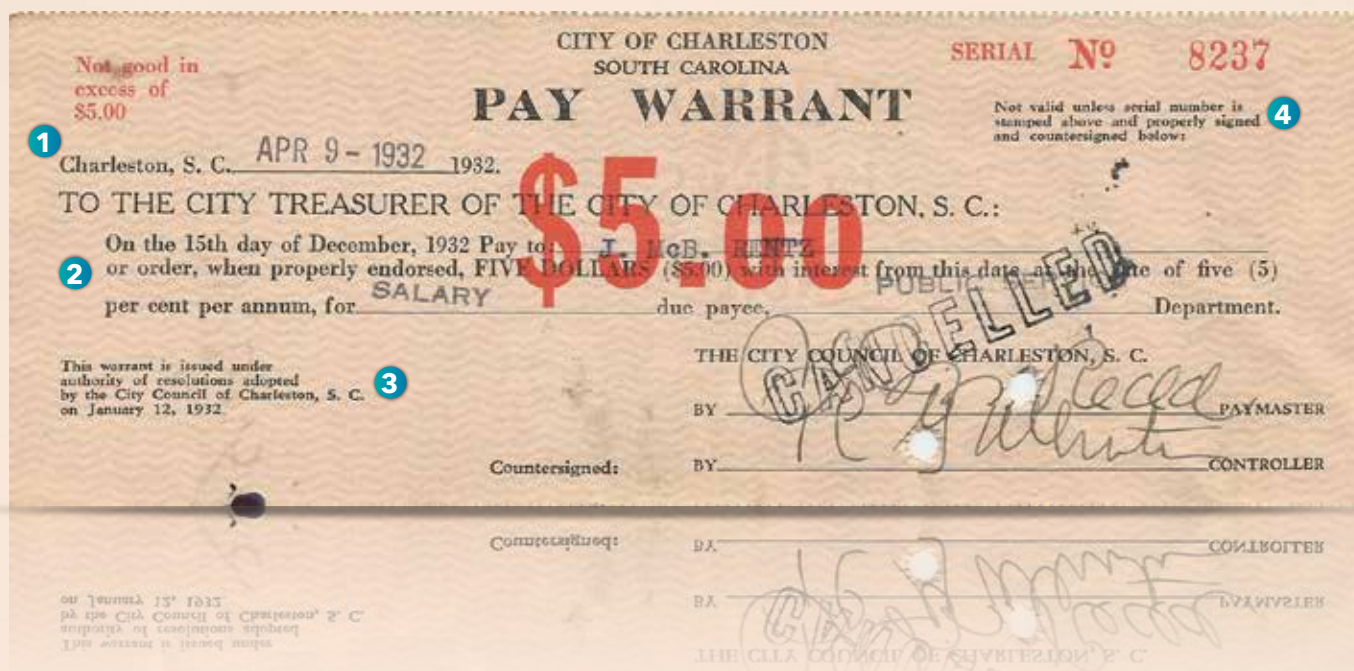
<b>VALUE:</b> 2 Rentenmark	<b>COUNTRY:</b> Germany	<b>MINT:</b> Deutsche Rentenbank	<b>YEAR:</b> 1937*	<b>SIZE:</b> 125 x 70 mm
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\* The date indicates the year of the first issue.



# DEPRESSION-ERA CHECKS IN THE UNITED STATES

KNOWN AS BLACK TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1929 WITNESSED THE CRASH OF THE WALL STREET STOCK EXCHANGE, UNLEASHING AN ECONOMIC CRISIS CALLED THE GREAT DEPRESSION. SOME LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ISSUED CHECKS TO BE ABLE TO PAY THEIR EMPLOYEES.



1. "Pay Warrant" indicates where the check was issued (in this case, Charleston, South Carolina).

2. Inscription on the midsection of the check indicating the date it was issued, its nominal value (5 dollars), and the reason for payment (salary payment for a person who worked for the Public Service Department)

3. Inscription on the lower lefthand section indicating who issued the check (the City Council of Charleston) as per the resolutions it enacted on January 12, 1932

4. Inscriptions on the lower righthand section warning that the check is not valid without the serial number printed on the upper section or if not duly signed by the party making the payment and countersigned by the beneficiary

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The beginning of the end of the Great Depression came with the election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932. President Roosevelt lay the bases for the modern welfare state by means of a plan known as the New Deal..

## NUMISMATIC SHEET

<b>VALUE:</b> 5 dollars	<b>COUNTRY:</b> The United States	<b>MINT:</b> The Charleston city treasurer	<b>YEAR:</b> 1932	<b>WEIGHT:</b> 210 x 75 mm
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\* The date indicates the year of the first issue.