MONEY in caricature and satire

A special exhibition at the Money Museum of the Deutsche Bundesbank In the City, the pound fell against the dollar, the dollar fell against the euro, and finally the whole lot just toppled over.

Die alte Dame hebt am Bankschalter ihr ganzes Geld ab. Nach zehn Minuten kommt sie wieder und zahlt alles wieder ein. "Warum haben Sie denn das Geld überhaupt abgehoben?", will der Kassierer wissen. "Man wird doch mal nachzählen dürfen!"

MONEY in caricature and satire

A special exhibition at the Money Museum of the Deutsche Bundesbank



Money! What Darwin never saw coming ...

© Tomicek

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Foreword

Dear reader,

The idea that it's "not the done thing" to talk about money is a sentiment often voiced in Germany. Indeed, there's a well-known phrase that expresses just that. At the Money Museum, the opposite is true. Here, talk of money is quite explicitly the order of the day. What, in fact, is money? What do central banks do? How does monetary policy work? These are just a handful of the questions that are answered in the exhibition. This is part of its appeal as a hands-on learning environment where visitors can delve into all aspects of money. Another element of the experience is our regular cycle of new special exhibitions, which look at the individual topics covered in the permanent exhibition in more depth.

The Bundesbank has created the exhibition "Money in caricature and satire" to stimulate reflection on the topic of money by offering a different perspective on it. Satire and caricatures approach generally serious topics with a critical eye and frame them in an over-the-top, exaggerated manner. For me personally, illustrating difficult-to-understand and complex economic relationships to do with money in a brief, concise and accessible way is an art form. So it's not at all surprising that cartoons are a popular resource when it comes to economic education, in lessons at school and university, for example. As part of the free formation of public opinion, caricature and satire also perform an important societal task.

Whether criticism in the form of satire or caricature is justified in a given case depends, of course, above all on one's personal perspective. I find the most successful examples are those which manage to raise a smile not only with the audience but perhaps the odd person on the receiving end, too. After all, back in the 1st century AD, the Roman historian and politician Publius Cornelius Tacitus recognised that "to show resentment at a reproach is to acknowledge that one may have deserved it".

The selection of pieces for display in the exhibition was guided first and foremost by didactic considerations. With their accompanying, brief explanatory texts, the exhibits shown are immediately accessible to the public. Many of the cartoons are highly relevant – or were so at the time they were created. Some of them predicted developments that have not come to pass, whilst others are as current today as they were then. The exhibition also includes examples of banknotes and coins that have been designed or altered with the intent to caricaturise or satirise.

This is all packaged in a lively multimedia presentation-style: framed prints, digital images on a screen, projections on the wall and even a sound shower over a revolving seat. The exhibits prompt visitors to ponder money, its functions and how we interact with it. Combined with the way the exhibition space is set up, the result is an attractive all-round experience.

In this booklet – which functions as both a memento and a foretaste of the exhibition – we present an extensive selection of the exhibits. These are supplemented by individual explanations and pictures of the exhibition space. My recommendation? Take a look for yourself! You'll find cause for astonishment, amusement and reflection.



Burkhard Balz

Member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank

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WITZ JOKE TO GO

Die alte Danie hebt ein Bankschafter Pir ganzeit Geid ab. Nach zehn Minuten kommt sie weider und zehlt alles wieder ein "Warum haben Sie denn das Geid überhauer abgehoben?" wil der Kasterer einsten ""Man sind sich nich nachschlien dürftent"







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Ede hragt serven Zellengenouen "Warum sitzt du?" "Wei ich farbentlind ben!" "Das ist doch kein Verbrechent" "Dich, ich habe riste 100 Euro-Scheine gednacht."

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WITZ JOKE TO GO

CASH

First steps into the world of money are taken as children: youngsters are given pocket money or cash gifts. We fill our piggy banks with coins and banknotes or stash cash under our pillows. Many people value cash: it can be used quickly and anonymously, without any aids, to make payments.

Technological progress means we have an ever-growing range of alternative ways to pay, leading to vigorous debate about life with and without cash. This also features in satirical angles on coins and banknotes.



Cash only! Damn Piggy banks recently © Martin Zak



Please enter your PIN and press "confirm" ...

... your million will be credited to your account within the next few days, Mr Müller. A world without cash

© Schwarwel / toonpool.com

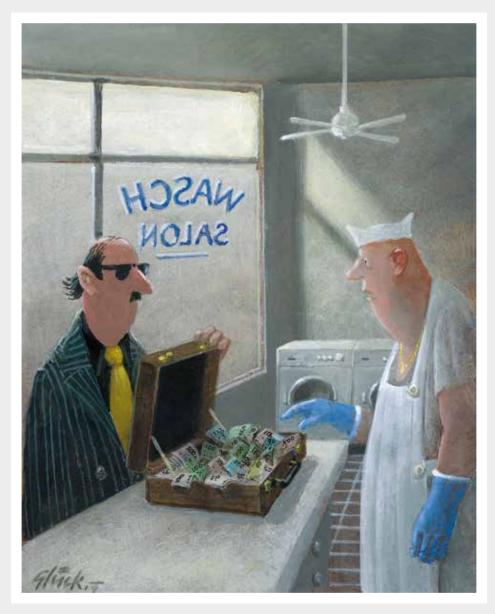


Oi, mate!! Ever heard of a cash limit?!?

© Klaus Stuttmann, Berlin

Life with cash

In Germany, only a small portion of cash in circulation is spent at the point of sale; a large part is kept in people's homes. There is still no upper limit on cash payments in Germany. But this is something that is being discussed in the European Union, as a way of combating money laundering, for example.



Laundromat The usual? Washed and ironed? © Gerhard Glück First published: NZZ FOLIO Magazine of the Neue Zürcher Zeitung full page - Nov. 2019



Total: €24.30 – Unknown ID! – Violation of chip requirement. Police notified. Paper money?? Don't you have an RFID chip in the back of your hand?? Without one of them you can't buy anything, anywhere! Biometric passports are just the start of the nanny state © Götz Wiedenroth, Flensburg, www.wiedenroth-karikatur.de

Life without cash?

The future of payments has been hotly debated for some time now. In 2016, the Governing Council of the European Central Bank decided to stop issuing €500 notes. Many interpreted this as a harbinger of the impending abolition of cash. But cashless payment has its pitfalls, too.



No \in 500 notes will make it harder to get those millions over to Switzerland ...

© Klaus Stuttmann, Berlin



The thing took my card and won't give it back! My piggy bank Generation "cashless" © Michael Hüter, Bochum Source: Stiftung Jugend und Bildung

Please take a seat

This bench is covered with bits of former euro banknotes. Currency in circulation is checked at the Bundesbank's branches. Any banknotes that are damaged or too soiled are shredded and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner.



A world first

In 2016, Germany issued the €5 "Planet Earth" coin. The coin incorporates a coloured, translucent polymer ring made of high-grade plastic. This was an absolute novelty in the coin world at the time. Since then, Germany has regularly issued collector coins with embedded polymer rings.



Plastic fragments have been found in several new €5 coins. Are you planning to issue a recall? "Blue Planet Earth" out now © Stephan Rürup









Believe it or not

A €22 note, a €3 coin, and gag money from somebody's wedding all managed to be accepted as money before being pulled out of circulation by the Deutsche Bundesbank. The DM-20 note featuring cartoonist Uli Stein's mouse looked too similar to the real thing. It was confiscated by police and handed over to the Bundesbank.

BOOK MONEY

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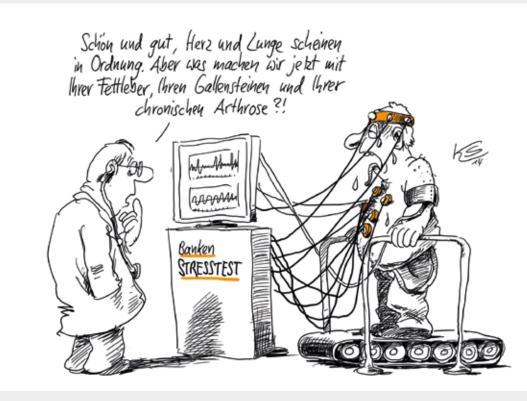
You cannot touch book money. It exists on bank accounts. We use it to pay online or at the point of sale without even really thinking about it. Book money is created whenever banks issue loans. Nowadays, there is significantly more book money than cash.

The relationship between customers and their bank, the vagaries of lending and the banking system in general are popular targets for caricature and satire. The same goes for the new technological capabilities of cashless payments and digital offerings such as bitcoin and the like.



© jerichow / toonpool.com

Loan agreement Creation of money



Alright, heart and lungs seem fine. But what are we going to do about your fatty liver, the gallstones and your chronic arthritis?! Bank stress test

© Klaus Stuttmann, Berlin

Banks in crisis

The global financial crisis that unfolded from 2008 spelled big trouble for the banking system. Staff were laid off and banks had to restructure. Banking supervisors – in Germany, the Bundesbank and the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) working together – responded to the crisis. They developed the "stress test" for banks, a way of checking how well banks are prepared for poor market conditions.



Mobile payments, that's all well and good But what are we supposed to do with all these? © Schwarwel / toonpool.com

Cashless payments

Technological advances are making the world of cashless payments ever more diverse. Banks and other financial service providers offer special programs (apps). They enable payments and other banking transactions to be performed by smartphone.



Money on the phone, now! Do you have our new payment app? © Markus Grolik / toonpool.com

Bitcoin & Co

Crypto-assets – such as bitcoin – are digital tokens. They are created and used in computer networks. There is no legal basis or government regulation for them. They are more of a speculative device than a means of payment. The use of bitcoin and other crypto-assets requires a lot of electricity.



How much bitcoin for your fishing rod?

© Christian Möller / cloud-science.de



Watch out! The bitcoin market is full of speculators and dodgy dealers! Well, I'm jolly glad we don't have all that with "real money"!

© Schwarwel / toonpool.com

Credit report



Banking transactions

The relationship between banks and their customers has undergone huge change. An increasing number of people conduct their banking business without setting foot in a branch. Even credit checks can be carried out online nowadays. Like in other businesses, mask-wearing was mandatory in banks during the coronavirus pandemic. © Drawing Klaus Puth. Originals in ink on paper Published in: Fröhliche Wörterbücher, Bank & Börse, Tomus, Munich 1988.



Cash desk No, I just wanted to get a statement. Mask mandate coming soon? © Greser&Lenz, FAZ.

MONETARY POLICY

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MONETARY POLICY

The central objective of monetary policy is keeping the value of a currency stable, i.e. preventing inflation and deflation. That is the job of central banks. The Eurosystem is in charge of the euro. It consists of the European Central Bank (ECB) and the national central banks of the EU countries that have adopted the euro. To the general public, the ECB is the face of the Eurosystem.

Criticism of the Eurosystem's monetary policy is very often expressed through caricatures lampooning senior figures. They take aim at the challenges posed by inflation and deflation, as well as the loose monetary policy of the recent past. Debates about the right course of monetary policy are also given the satirical treatment.



Denkmal des unbekannten Notenbankers

Tomb of the Unknown Central Banker

© Dirk Meissner



© Cartoon by **Bob Rich** from Hedgeye



ECB Inflation War Climate change © Burkhard Mohr / Handelsblatt

Eurosystem monetary policy

The Eurosystem makes money available to society via commercial banks. It does this by lending to banks and purchasing assets such as bonds. The Eurosystem has put out more and more money to combat the crises of recent years. It cut interest rates sharply and increased its asset purchases. Some interest rates even went into negative territory for a time. At present, monetary policymakers are having to respond to the challenge of excessively high inflation and are starting to raise interest rates.



BEREIT ZINM (LETZTEN) GEFECHT

Asset purchases . Draghi's battery All set for the (last) stand © Jürgen Janson janson-karikatur.de

Inflation and deflation

Inflation and deflation threaten the value of money. The statistical basket of goods is used to measure the inflation rate; it contains the prices of around 650 goods and services. In recent years, the Eurosystem's concerns had centred on the spectre of deflation. It eased its monetary policy and made more money available. At present, many prices are rising sharply. Is the inflation monster making a comeback?



Munch, munch, crunch "Should somebody call Ghostbusters?"



The end of inflation, due to the new statistical basket of goods!

© Til Mette / toonpool.com



Even lower!! ECB Interest rates Small savers © dieKLEINERT.de / Kostas Koufogiorgos



 ${\in}5$ – is that all?? Take a leaf out of Draghi's book and loosen up your monetary policy!

© Harm Bengen / toonpool.com



We'll need a bigger injection.

© Schwarwel / toonpool.com



© Burkhard Mohr / Handelsblatt

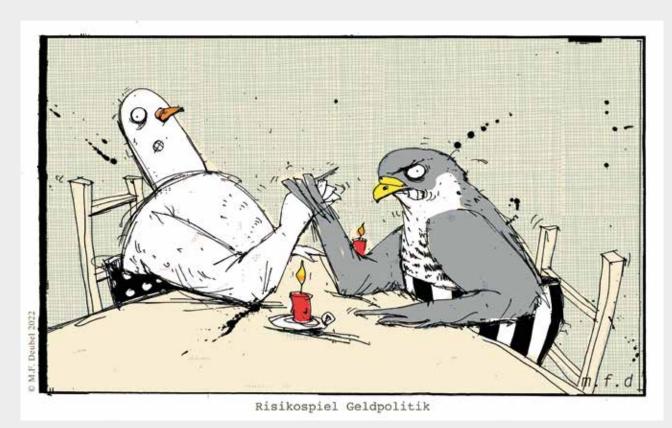


Times of change at the ECB

© M.F. Deubel aka Frank Hoppmann/Moritz Post

Of doves and hawks

Monetary policy is not simply a technical matter, but also, as the name suggests, political. The best course of action for a central bank in a given situation is therefore sometimes controversial. In the media, the proponents of various stances are sometimes referred to using the simplistic terms "doves" and "hawks". In a monetary policy decision, those in favour of tightening the policy reins, i.e. raising policy rates, are called "hawks". Those who, in the same situation, would choose to loosen monetary policy, ie to lower policy rates, are referred to as "doves".



A game of monetary policy Risk

© M.F. Deubel aka Frank Hoppmann/Moritz Post

GLOBAL MONEY



lation joke. worth it anymore.

GELD GLOBAL

Gelit gelit en oberal auf an Weit, Die massen Lander fabererne eigene Wahrung dinz Assendung findet fab Europaan mit ande generalisatiene Wahrung Die gehabe Franktagtes Bringt Geldgeber and Gelitscheren zusammen

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GLOBAL MONEY

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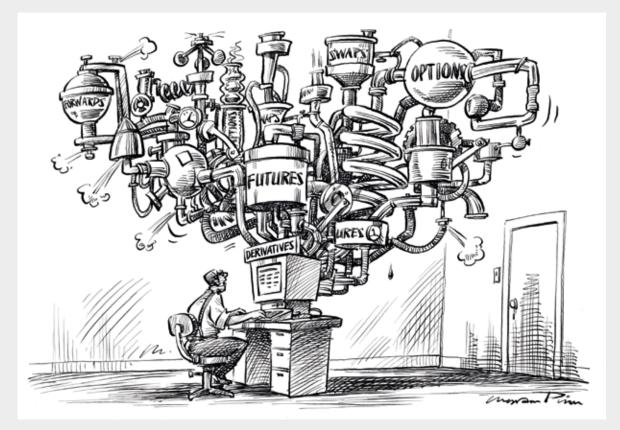
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GLOBAL MONEY

Money exists all over the world. Most countries have their own currency. An exception is the euro area, which shares a single currency. The global financial system connects lenders and borrowers. The complex structures of the financial system, market ups and downs and currency movements provide material for satirical statements, as do the contemporary debate surrounding the introduction of the euro and the way people today view the state of monetary union.





Pound sterling's falling quickly ... Wouldn't be such a bad thing for your pounds, either! © Gottfried / toonpool.com

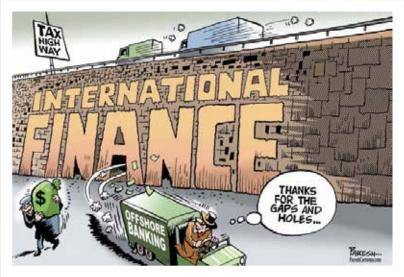
Currencies and exchange rates

Most countries have their own currency. One exception is the euro area. We use symbols for the major currencies: \$ for the US dollar, \in for the euro, £ for the pound sterling, ¥ for the Japanese yen.

For cross-border transactions, the domestic currency needs to be converted into a foreign currency. This is done on the foreign exchange market at the prevailing exchange rate. Many exchange rates change daily; a currency is said to "appreciate" or "depreciate".



Seems like two stripes might be a bit too much after all ... International foreign exchange market The downgrade! © Götz Wiedenroth, Flensburg, www.wiedenroth-karikatur.de



© PareshCartoons.com



The shadow banks are stronger again than they were before the crisis! Scandalous!

© Harm Bengen / toonpool.com

The global financial system

The financial system sees complex financial products traded across national borders. Some market participants are not subject to government supervision – they are described as shadow banks. Gaps in international rules favour tax avoidance. Disruptions in the financial system can damage an economy severely. A clear example was the global financial crisis starting in 2008. Governments and central banks poured a lot of money into combating its negative fallout.

The introduction of the euro

In 1999, 11 European countries introduced a single, shared currency: the euro. It started out as purely a book currency. Euro cash was not issued until the beginning of 2002. The foundation for the euro was laid in the Treaty on European Union, which was signed in Maastricht in 1992. European monetary union was a key political objective of Germany's then-Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The introduction of the euro was controversial. In Germany, it triggered a "Teuro" debate, referring to a perceived rise in prices ("teuer" means "expensive" in German). Today, the monetary union counts 19 members (20, from January 2023), making the euro the means of payment of around 350 million people.



"... and the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! ..." © Horst Haitzinger, München / www.haitzinger.de



Follow me! Let us know if the pool has water in it! Maastricht Lido © Horst Haitzinger, München / www.haitzinger.de

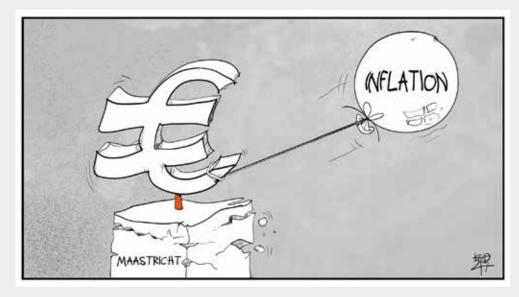
The state of monetary union

European countries wrestled with the introduction of a single currency for a long time. And there are still some countries in the EU that have not adopted the euro. To ensure the smooth functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union, the EU members jointly created the Stability and Growth Pact, laying down rules for sound national fiscal policies. However, the fiscal targets and limits have remained politically charged and have been repeatedly breached by Member States.



20 years of the €

© dieKLEINERT.de / Kostas Koufogiorgos



© dieKLEINERT.de / Kostas Koufogiorgos



New borrowing

© dieKLEINERT.de / Kostas Koufogiorgos

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Unless otherwise credited, for all images: © Deutsche Bundesbank



Weidmann's hanging the job on the nail (an den Nagel). And Nagel's going to be doing the job. © Bengen / toonpool.com

Weidmann, Jens: former President of the Deutsche Bundesbank (2011-2021) Nagel, Joachim: President of the Deutsche Bundesbank since Jan. 2022

German play on words based on Nagel's surname and the phrase "etwas an den Nagel hängen", meaning literally to hang something on a nail, but figuratively to quit an activity (in this case, to leave a job).





I had an inflation joke. But it's not worth it anymore.

Ede fragt seinen Zellengenossen: "Warum sitzt du?" "Weil ich farbenblind bin!" "Das ist doch kein Verbrechen!" "Doch, ich habe rote 100-Euro-Scheine gedruckt."

MONEY in Caricature and Satire

Money is a serious matter – and for that very reason has always been a target for caricature and satire. This manifests itself in a variety of outlets: jokes, cartoons, sketches, anecdotes or even money that has been in some way distorted or manipulated for satiric effect.

The exhibition covers the four areas of the Money Museum: cash, book money, monetary policy and global money. Tying in with the wealth of content found there, it steers the topics into the satirical and provides fresh insights into money and how we interact with it.



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