

# VORLÄUFER

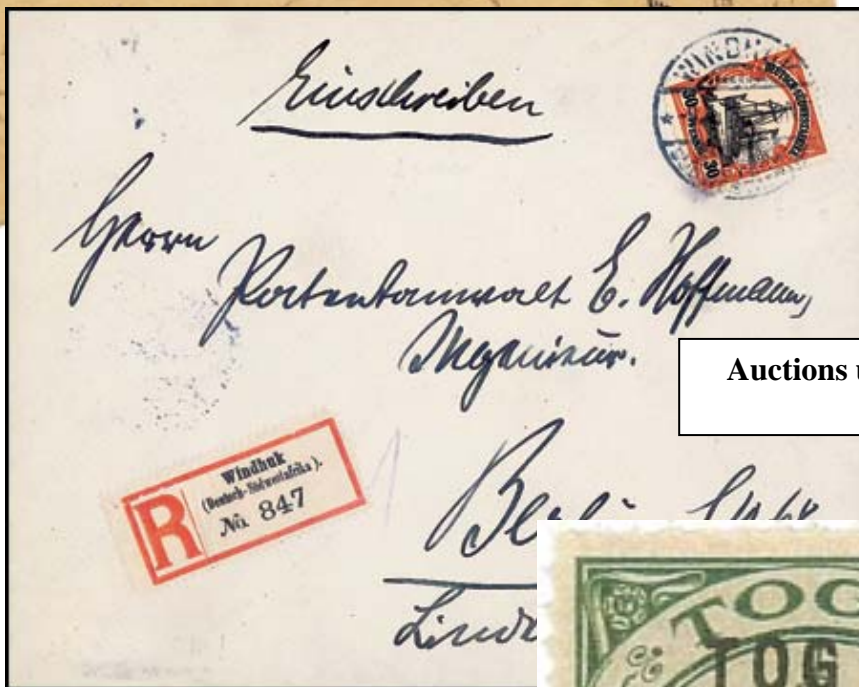
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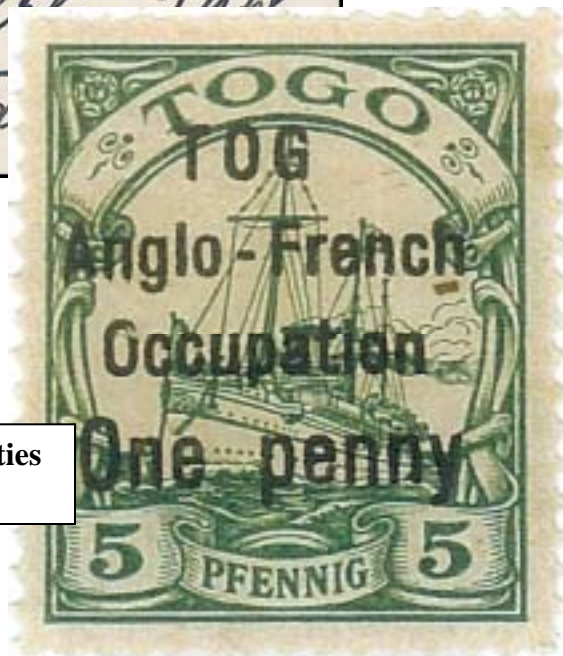


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<p><b>VORLÄUFER</b> is published quarterly by the German Colonies Collectors Group.</p>	<p><b>A Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 236 An Associated Group of the Germany &amp; Colonies Philatelic Society</b></p>																																											
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[Ed: This article is a chapter of "Postal Warfare", an unpublished two-volume book on espionage/propaganda forgeries and propaganda parodies of postage stamps and postcards by Wolfgang Baldus.]

## The "Karissimbi provisionals" of German East Africa

by Wolfgang Baldus, artworkbaldus @ smp-munich.de

The "Karissimbi provisionals" are enlarged versions of German East Africa (GEA) stamps illustrating the "Hohenzollern" yacht of German Emperor William II. The originals were issued first in Pesa/Rupee currency in 1901, and were released in Heller currency in 1905. Five values of the Heller stamps were copied: 2½ H brown, 4 H green, 7½ H red, 15 H blue, and 30 H violet/black. The latter bicoloured value was copied in a single colour and printed in reddish violet only.

The most unusual feature of the stamps is their size: Whereas the original GEA stamps measure 20 × 25 mm, the size of the "monster stamps" is 30 × 40 mm! See Fig. 1 below. They also exist overprinted in black 'G.E.A. BRITISH OCCUPATION' with a surcharge value in cents, according to the literature (see Fig. 2 on next page). However, the currency reads "Cent." with a full stop that is unusual and not required if "cents" are meant. It is more likely that "Cent." is the abbreviation of a longer currency designation like "Centesimi", for instance. Italian currency would, however, add to the mystery of these stamps. The surcharged values are 3 Cent. on 4 H, 6 Cent. on 7½ H, 12 Cent. on 2½ H, 15 Cent. on 15 H, and 25 Cent. on 30 H. The surcharge values were obviously applied arbitrarily, and the denominations do not correspond with the original values. The "Karissimbi provisionals" are unwatermarked and perforated 11½. Imperforate specimens also exist. Many copies are poorly centered.

The design was copied from the original stamps but a few changes were made which might be anti-German propaganda; see Fig. 3 on the next page. In the original drawing, the banner of the German navy on top of the middle mast of the yacht is clearly to identify the ship. The flag in the enlarged stamp is much smaller and very indistinct. The flag on the bow of the ship is small and unidentifiable in the original stamp. It has more than double the size in the enlarged stamp but does not represent the German navy flag. Was it intended to conceal German national emblems?

**Figure 1.** An unoverprinted "Karissimbi" stamp and a regular German East Africa stamp illustrated in correct proportions for comparison.







**Figure 2.** A full set of the “Karissimbi provisionals” overprinted “G.E.A. British occupation” and surcharged with values in “Cent.”. The type of the overprint is a typical Art Nouveau type. This is an indication that the overprint was made in the first two decades of the 20th century. The surcharged currency is “Cent.” with a full stop. This seems to be an abbreviation for “Centesimi” or “Centavos” rather than a denomination in Cents which would not require a full stop.

There are many more details in the frame ornaments as well as in the ship design which are different in the originals and the enlarged stamps. It is obvious that an exact imitation was not intended – or that the skill of the stamp designer was limited. It was speculated that the design was locally copied by an Indian craftsman.

Four cancellations were found on these stamps so far. They are from November or December 1918. The November cancels are found on unoverprinted stamps, the December cancels on overprinted stamps exclusively. The cancels are:

- 1) ‘FELDPOST 2 NOV 18’ (27 mm circular single-ring cancel)
- 2) ‘FIELD POST OFFICE BO 6 DEC. 18’ (27 mm circular single-ring cancel)
- 3) ‘ARMY POST OFFICE S.131 11 DIC. 18’ (29 mm double-ring cancel). Note: ‘DIC’ might be Dicembre (Italian) or Diciembre (Spanish).
- 4) ‘FIELD POST OFFICE BO 11 DEC. 18’ (27 mm circular single-ring cancel, identical with cancel 2) except for the date).

The stamps were probably cancelled-to-order.

**Figure 3.** The flags of the super stamp (left) and the original (right, enlarged for comparison).





**Figure 4.** British forgery of a GEA banknote.

It is not known why Harry F. Rooke, the late well-known expert on Cinderella and non-official stamps, sometimes called the stamps “Karissimbi provisionals”. He never clarified this name. Karissimbi (also called Mt. Mfumbiro) is the name of a high volcano (14,683 feet) which is located in the border zone of Rwanda and the former Zaire (now Congo), west of Lake Victoria. This was the most western part of GEA but the use of the mountain’s name in regard to the stamps is unclear.

The origin of the “Karissimbi provisionals” is controversial. It is often supposed that British propaganda departments produced the monster stamps. A short summary of historical facts might explain the reason for British Intelligence to include unusual means in their propaganda campaigns for the German colony.

It is known that the British forged GEA banknotes in their own colony British East Africa to undermine the German colonial financial system; see Fig. 4 above. The propaganda stamps were possibly another attempt to defeat the German colonial commander, von Lettow-Vorbeck, who had harried the British forces for years.

German East Africa was vehemently contested from the beginning of World War I. The colony had borders with British East Africa and Uganda in the North, with the Portuguese possession of Mozambique in the South, British Northern Rhodesia in the Southwest, and the Belgian administered Congo Free State in the West. German East Africa consisted of a territory which approximately forms the states of Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi today.

On 8 Aug. 1914, British, Indian, South-African, Belgian, and Portuguese troops started to invade German East Africa. The German colonial forces under General Paul Erich von Lettow-Vorbeck were able to hold their positions for a certain time but on 28 Nov. 1917 the entire German colony was under British control. However, the German colonial force refused to capitulate. Lettow-Vorbeck entered Mozambique but returned a year later, on 25 Sept. 1918. Five weeks later, he had the nerve to enter British Northern Rhodesia. This meant that although German rule in GEA had been over since November 1917, German troops consisting (at the end) of 155 Whites, 1,168 native Askaris, and about 3,000 porters continued to attack the victorious British in various guerrilla operations for more than a year. They even refused to give up after the war in Europe

had ended. It was two weeks after the armistice, on 25 Nov. 1918, that Lettow-Vorbeck formally capitulated. He left Africa with his troops on 18 Dec.

The stubborn resistance of the German colonial force during 1918 might have been the reason for the British to produce the stamps in question, possibly in the autumn of 1918. All known cancellation dates are between 2 November and 11 December 1918. This was the critical period when Great Britain was fought to a stand-still by a small group of Germans who refused to accept the truce of Europe to be valid also in East Africa.

The enlarged stamp parodies have only been occasionally mentioned in the relevant literature. Due to the lack of official documents or other first-hand sources, these short articles are briefly discussed below. Most authors agree that the parodies originate from a British propaganda department and were printed near the end of WWI. Astoundingly enough, the earliest report about the “monster stamps” that the author has found is a short 1962 article by Harry F. Rooke in *Stamp Magazine* [1]. Mr. Rooke speculated:

“Seeing the large format, coupled with the large clear BRITISH OCCUPATION overprint makes me think they were intended to fool the natives. During World War I the fighting in East Africa was particularly fierce and prolonged; this being due to the brilliant leadership of Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, the German general who resisted British conquest right up to the end ... He certainly kept some 300,000 British and other Allied troops in the field against him, including 130 different generals, one of whom was General Smuts. By 1918, superior forces had compelled him to leave Tanganyika, but he claimed he only surrendered in November 1918 because of the defeat of Germany in Europe. With such a thorn in its East African side, it is quite reasonable to suppose these bogus stamps were prepared to give the impression that General Lettow was defeated and the colony occupied. Being large and easy to read, complete with the OCCUPATION overprints, it could have been the intention to circulate them amongst the natives, with anti-German intentions ...”

Another early reference is a short comment of Ludwig Meyer in **VORLÄUFER** [2]:

“When the Allies attacked German East Africa in 1914 they were unable to confiscate any German colonial stamps there. So they went to work and printed their own ‘Victory’ set of postage stamps there, e.g., an exact duplication of the existing G.E.A. yacht stamps, only in super size. They then cancelled these super stamps with various postmarks and Field post cancels. The ‘Victory’ in G.E.A., however, did not come as quickly as they had hoped, and the super sized stamps never had any validity and remained a mere plaything.”

Jerome G. Newman, in his 1973 book [3], called the stamps “War Propaganda Issue 1918.” This quotation was reprinted in **VORLÄUFER** [4]. Newman illustrated the set and wrote:

“In the period from 1914-1918, a set of five labels were printed by the British as a propaganda issue. They were the same design as the regular German East African Yacht Issue, but were much larger in size. It is believed that they were printed to celebrate their anticipated victory since they were overprinted ‘G.E.A. British Occupation’.”

The most recent article on the super stamps was published in 1991 in *B.E.A.* [7]. It quotes the [4] but doubts the reference to a date of issue of 1914

“which ‘should be at least 1916 for that was the year when the Allied forces invaded from Kenya, the Congo and the Nyasaland.’ ”

The author of the *B.E.A.* article, P. J. C. Ellis, wrote

“Bearing in mind that the ‘G.E.A.’ overprints on the Kenya stamps were produced in 1917 and that German forces in that year were penned in the central south-eastern corner of the country before rampaging through Portuguese East Africa, I conclude that the super stamps were probably produced with official approval in 1917, but were held back and never officially used.”



**Figure 5.** This cover is undoubtedly philatelic, and the censor cancel must be a forgery. The stamps are tied to the cover by a ‘FIELD POST OFFICE BO 11 DEC 18’ cancel. This is one of four postmarks known on these stamps. It is not known if the cover passed the mail unnoticed or was cancelled to order without being put into the mailstream.

The late Dr. Werner M. Bohne, editor of the *Reference Manual of Forgeries*, illustrated the super stamps as “British propaganda issues” in 1976 [5]. In 1987 [6], he added the illustration of a cover (see Fig. 5 above) bearing a full set of the overprinted super stamps with the following caption

“The cover illustrated above shows the set of five values of the British propaganda forgeries with overprint on an apparently genuinely used registered cover to Somalia. The cover was censored by the British authorities and passed into the mailstream.”

This cover is one of only two known covers bearing the “Karissimbi” super stamps. Both have the full set of overprinted stamps and are undoubtedly philatelically inspired. The stamps on the Somalia cover are postmarked ‘Field Post Office - BO - 11 DEC. 18’. The address reads “Monsieur / Amedei Amedeo / Mogadiscio / (Somalia italiano)” and has a ‘PASSED BY MILITAR censor N.1’ cancellation. The spelling of the address is strange because “Monsieur” is French, but the rest of the address is in Italian. Furthermore, the censor’s cachet, reportedly to be found on both covers, must be a forgery since ‘PASSED BY MILITAR’ is partly English and partly Spanish. The Somalia cover was offered in the London & Brighton auction of 31 July 1987.

The second cover (see Fig. 6 on next page) seems to originate from the same source. It was described by Harry F. Rooke in his 1962 article [1]:

“I have the complete overprinted set on a cunningly contrived cover bearing Field Post cancellations dated 11th December, 1918, plus a ‘Military Censor No. 1’ mark. These markings being repeated on the back, where there is the added postmark for ‘ARMY POST OFFICE, S.131’ with the same date. Was all this part of the original propaganda? The address on the cover is that of Monsieur Th. Champion, 17 Rue Druot [sic! correctly: Drouot], Paris, France – being the address of the famous catalogue publisher. So it is possible that someone had the idea of selling these stamps as a new issue if their original intended use had come to nought ...”





**Figure 6.** The second known cover bearing a full set of the “Karissimbi provisionals”. It is addressed to the well-known philatelic dealer Theodore Champion of Paris.

In regard to the Somalia cover, **VORLÄUFER** printed the following information received in 1992, from GEA expert Dr. Kenneth Pennycuik [9] who wrote to say

“that the stamps were bogus, probably of Italian origin around 1921/22 ... [This] has been well-known since the mid-1960s. The Italian origin is based on the cover, once sold by Proud-Bailey. It has Italian characteristics, and was obviously bogus. He [Pennycuik] points out that “no reference to the labels has been found in German, British or East African archives (he searched himself in 1949/50 in Tanganyika), and that neither Friedemann nor Ey mention them.” [Note: Friedemann and Ey are authors of standard works on German East Africa philately.]

Thus, considering the status of the “Karissimbi” super stamps, the quoted opinions of the experts are not unanimous but the majority consider them to be genuine, that is, officially produced in 1917 or 1918 to be used in East Africa as propaganda.

The best argument against a private origin is the format. No stamp forger would have redrawn the German colonial stamps in this enlarged format to defraud collectors. There is no rational reason to redraw extant postage stamps in a conspicuously different size when the intention is to make profits. That would be counterproductive because every collector would consider these monster stamps to be privately produced. Therefore, any private origin is very unlikely. If we want to understand the purpose of these stamps we must first explain the enlarged redrawing of extant postage stamps.

The best reasoning is from Harry F. Rooke who speculated that the stamps were meant to be noticed by the East-African natives. Possibly the oversized stamps were directed to this target group which was familiar with the German colonial stamps illustrating the Hohenzollern yacht. These stamps were the only valid postage stamps in GEA from 1901. The natives certainly had no philatelic interest, seldom corresponded, and therefore had few opportunities and no cause to compare stamps. The overprinted stamps make sense in the Rooke theory.





**Figure 7.** This overprint on a regular GEA stamp is a mystery. It might represent another attempt of British propaganda departments to use stamps for indicating that the colony was lost for Germany from the end of 1917.



**Figure 8.** Imperforate copies of the fake stamps are exceptionally rare.

Although no documentary evidence exists, it is plausible that the British intelligence service, which worked successfully in Europe from about 1916, stood behind the phantoms. British propaganda departments also produced the espionage forgeries of Bavarian, German, and Austrian postage stamps. Perhaps the GEA parodies have the same originator.



## German Offices & Colonies

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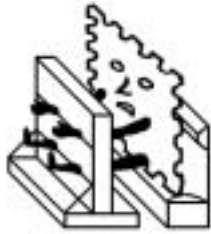
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### References:

- [1] Harry F. Rooke, "The Kaiser's Yacht," *Stamp Magazine* (Jan. 1962): 29.
- [2] Ludwig Meyer, *VORLÄUFER*, No. 5 (Summer 1973): 14-15.
- [3] Jerome G. Newman, *A Postal History of German East Africa*, Associated Stamp Clubs of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Delaware (1973): 204.
- [4] W. E. Davis, *VORLÄUFER*, No. 16 (June 1975): 1-2.
- [5] Werner M. Bohne, "British propaganda issues," *Reference Manual of Forgeries*, Release No. 4 (June 1976).
- [6] Werner M. Bohne, "British propaganda issues," *Reference Manual of Forgeries*, Release 26 (Oct. 1987).
- [7] P. J. C. Ellis, "German East Africa Superstamps," *B.E.A.*, No. 39 (Sept. 1991): 692-693.
- [8] P. J. C. Ellis, "German East Africa Superstamps," *VORLÄUFER*, No. 84 (Sept. 1991): 3-4.
- [9] Kenneth Pennycuick, *VORLÄUFER*, No. 88 (Sept. 1992): 7. ■



## The Rogue's Gallery: Around the World with One Mark

by Marcel W. Zollinger,  
mzollinger @ sympatico.ca

The Maurer forgery collection contained a considerable number of 1 Mark yacht stamps, so I thought I would present them all together. These are all fairly expensive stamps, costing on average €50 to €100, and most of them would be priced considerably higher as cancelled stamps than in the mint form. But beyond the fact that these stamps are all of the same denomination, and that they are all forged, they have little else in common.

Let us start with Samoa. The carmine 1 Mk. yacht stamp (Scott 66, Mi. 16) shows two strikes of the 'FAGAMALO 27/6 07' cancel (Fr. 13; Fig. 1 below). Although this is not exactly the same date as the example in Friedemann (26/5 07), the numbers are very similar. Overall the cancel is very much as it should be, the lettering, the spacing and the two strikes are all just as a genuine cancel would look. My limited knowledge does not allow me to point out what would make this a forgery, but the stamp was expertised by Bundesprüfer Michael Jäschke-Lantheme, who marked it as 'Entwertung Falsch' This is all the more interesting since the stamp also bears an expertiser signum 'BOTHE BPP', also forged.

From Samoa we travel to Kiautschou. I would like to show the later issued watermarked ½ Dollar yacht stamp (Scott 39, Mi. 24) (Fig. 2 below). Here the cancel seems just a very smeared version, possibly one of the common Tsingtau cancels. But there is no lettering visible, except the letter 'c'. Only Fr. 24, the latest of the Tsingtau cancels, had such a letter, but the letter 'c' in Fr. 24 is very small, and is positioned at the bottom of the cancel. The smeared cancel on the stamp is not of the Swiss style (two bars across the center), and the letter 'c' is too big and in the wrong position. Even though the town name is illegible, it must have been a fairly easy for Ronald Steuer to declare it a forgery.

The West African colonies come next. I show first the 1 Mk. yacht stamp from Togo (Scott 16, Mi. 16, Fig. 3 on next page). This example shows two strikes of the cancel 'ASSAHUN 9/11 ...' (Fr. 5), a fairly rare cancel. The faint cancel does not lend itself to an easy analysis, but several flaws in the lettering can be recognized. Foremost, the number '9' in the date is misshapen.

**Figure 1.** Samoa 1 Mk. (Mi. 13) with forged 1907 'FAGAMALO' cancel.



**Figure 2.** Kiautschou ½ \$ (Mi. 24) with forged smeared cancel.







**Figure 3.** Togo 1 Mk. (Mi. 16) with forged ‘ASSUHUN’ cancel.



**Figure 4.** Kamerun watermarked 1 Mk. (Mi. 24), with forged unidentified cancel.

Then the letter ‘T’ of ‘TOGO’ is positioned too high, and the two letters ‘S’ in ‘ASSUHUN’ have a very different shapes. This stamp was also marked ‘Stempel Falsch’ by Ronald Steuer.

From Togo it is not far to reach Kamerun. Here the 1 Mk. stamp turned out to be the watermarked 1 Mk. stamp (Scott 24, Mi. 24, Fig. 4 above). Unfortunately, Mi. 24 was never issued in the Colony, and thus cannot exist as a genuinely cancelled stamp. End of story. But let us look at the cancel all the same. The strike on the stamp shows the bottom of a larger cancel, with only the word ‘KAMERUN’ visible in very small letters. Neither a town name nor a date are visible. Friedemann [3] illustrates two “Stationsstempel” for Togo, one of which is almost the same size as this cancel, and shows very similar lettering. But, there were no such Stationsstempel for Kamerun. Ronald Steuer marked this ‘Stempel Falsch’.

While these first four 1 Mk. stamps could be considered the “genuine article”, i.e., a genuine stamp with a fairly realistic if forged cancel, the next two are much more blatant. These are two “Ganzfälschungen”, where the paper, the printing, and the cancel are all forged, as Fournier used to do it. But Fournier was more skilled than this forger. The first example is the GSWA 1 Mk. yacht stamp, supposedly Scott 22 and Mi. 20; Fig. 5 below. The bottom half of the cancel is visible, reading ‘(DEUTSCH- SUDWESTAFRIKA)’. The date is in one line at the centre, starting with ‘\* 23 11 14’, where the star and ‘23’ are much darker than the rest of the line. Even to a beginner it is clear that this stamp is forged, not just the cancel, but the actual print, which has a more orange hue than the genuine stamps, with a rather blurred print image. In addition the

**Figure 5.** Totally forged GSWA 1 Mk. – paper, printing, perforation, cancel.



**Figure 6.** Totally forged Marshall Islands 1 Mk. Stamp – paper, printing, perforation, cancel.



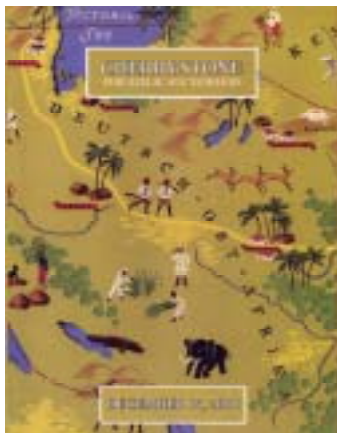
stamp has much thinner paper than the genuine stamp and shows very uneven and larger perforation than the genuine stamps. No need here to consult an expertiser, but Ronald Steuer marked it as forged when requested.

The very same type of print can also be found on our last stamp. This is the 1 Mk. stamp of the Marshall Islands. Although both stamps clearly came from the same forger, the printing quality of this one is even worse with, among other problems, the easily recognized blotchy sky. The interesting aspect here is the cancel: it is not of a German type, but the type later used by the Australian Forces in Rabaul, reading 'RABAU 10. OC 1915 NEW BRITAIN'. This type of cancel was in use to cancel the early overprinted G.R.I. stamps, and is illustrated in Powell [1] as Cancel 53. Powell indicates that the canceller was used for only eight months, from 4 Jan. until August 1915. This cancel was always in purple ink, and its date was month-day-year. Also note that Powell gives a last date of use in August 1915, while the cancel in Fig. 6 has an October date. German Marshall Island stamps were indeed used in Rabaul, and do exist cancelled with that Rabaul canceller. But all of them were first surcharged in Rabaul with the lettering 'G.R.I.' and the new value. Robert Gibbs has a beautiful illustration in his book [2] of Marshall Islands 1 Mk. (Mi. 22), surcharged 'G.R.I. 1s.' (and so now Mi. BB10) on piece, cancelled with the Rabaul oval cancel.

The analysis of the cancel was totally unnecessary, given the printing flaws that were outlined above. While an interesting thought process must have led to the fabrication of this canceller, it clearly would not succeed in making anybody spend good money on such a poor quality offer.

#### References:

- [1] John H. Powell, *The Postal History of the Territory of New Guinea 1888 to 1942*, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne (1964).
- [2] Robert M. Gibbs, *G.R.I., The Postage Stamps of the German Colonies occupied by the British, 1914-1918*, Christie's Robson Lowe, London (1987): 121.
- [3] Albert Friedemann and Heinrich Wittmann, *Die Postwertzeichen und Entwertungen der deutschen Postanstalten in den Schutzgebieten und im Ausland*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Dr. Wittmann Verlag, München (1988). ■



### German East Africa Auction

Dr. David H. Lobdell passed away in May 2010. He was a long-time member of the GCCG, and an avid collector of German East Africa.

His GEA collection will be sold by Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers, and the catalog is available both on-line ([www.cherrystoneauctions.com](http://www.cherrystoneauctions.com)) and printed (please contact Cherrystone at 119 W 57 St #316, New York, NY 10019 USA or [info@cherrystoneauctions.com](mailto:info@cherrystoneauctions.com)). ■



[Ed: This article first appeared in the Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society (Vol. 58, No. 3 (Sept. 2008)), and was subsequently reprinted in *Cameo, journal of the West Africa Study Circle*, (Vol. 11, No. 3 (Oct. 2009): 153-155). It is reprinted here with permission of the author and the *Cameo* editor, Barry Burns. For information on the WASC, please see <http://www.wasc.org.uk/>]

## German *Taxe* Marks on Togo and Kamerun/Cameroun Mail

by Bob Maddocks

Apropos the questions and answers raised by both John Mayne and Marty Bratzel in [1], [2] and [3], I should like to offer my own observations on the initial and extended use of the German boxed 'T' type *taxe* handstamp in Kamerun pre-WWI and subsequently. Neither correspondent had seen any cover with a German Kamerun provenance bearing such a handstamp, only on those post-War mailed from the French Mandate of Cameroun. Opinion was therefore divided as to whether the mark was, in fact, of German origin, even though a similar handstamp was seen used in the sister colony of German Togo.

Incidentally, perhaps I should add here that the correct terminology for this type of handstamp is "a 'T' in a chamfered corner box"!

Though neither card is now owned by me, I do have photocopies of these two pre-1914 German Kamerun post cards which clearly prove that this boxed 'T' type handstamp was indeed introduced into the territory by the German postal service. The first (Fig. 1 below) was on a post card from Duala in 1900 and the second (Fig. 2 on the next page) on one from Jaunde. It is assumed that the respective post offices would have been supplied with their own *taxe* handstamp as were other offices. Thus, more than one would have existed.

With the Anglo-French military invasion of Kamerun and the capture of Duala in September 1914 at least one of these *taxe* handstamps fell into British hands. It was then put into use at the

**Figure 1.** Postcard from Kamerun township (later Duala) postmarked 6.1.00 to Karlsbad, Bohemia. Bears German boxed 'T' type *taxe* handstamp. *Taxe* collected in Karlsbad.

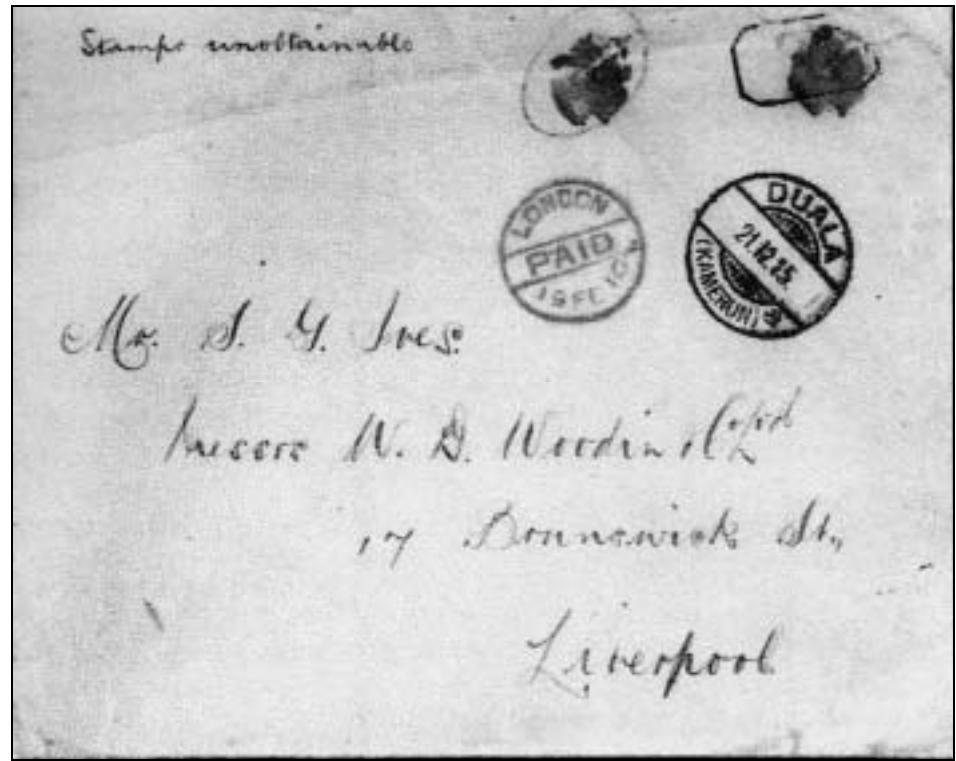




**Figure 2.** Postcard from Jaunde 28.3.06 to England, correctly franked 10 Pf., but taxed in error with boxed 'T' type handstamp pen cancelled.

CEF Post Office, Duala, as seen applied to this cover (Fig. 3 below) mailed to England with a Duala 21.12.15 postmark. The charge, by the way, was subsequently officially cancelled by the British Post Office in London which, however, had failed to observe that this letter was not of military origin and thus not entitled to the free frank concession.

**Figure 3.** WWI stampless cover from Duala 21.12.15 to England; of non-military origin it was duly taxed at the CEF Post Office using the former German boxed 'T' type handstamp. Again the handstamp was cancelled, erroneously by the oversight of the British Post Office in London.

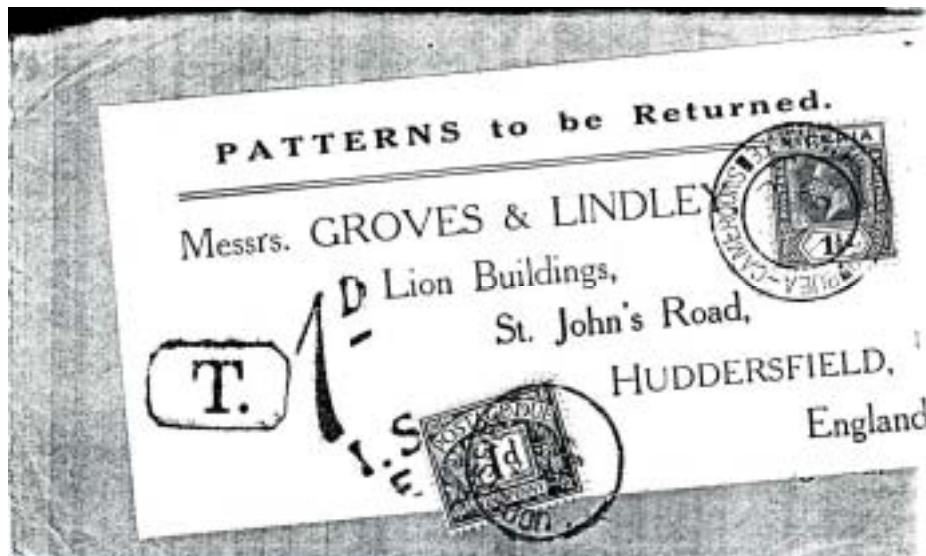




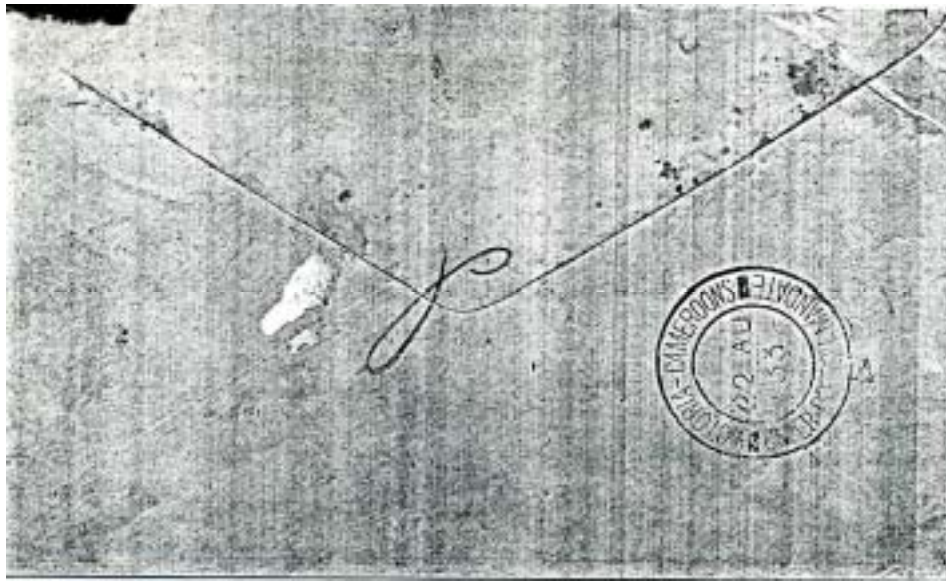
**Figure 4.** French Cameroun local cover postmarked Duala 8.3.17 showing possible earliest usage of French introduced triangular type 'T' *taxe* mark.

Effective from 1 April 1916, Allied Occupied Kamerun was divided into separate British and French spheres of administration. Duala was handed over to the French who re-opened the former British-run CEF Post Office. There is no evidence so far that in the initial years the French had taken over or used the former German boxed 'T' handstamp. Instead, it is apparent that they introduced their own *taxe* stamp – an inverted triangle containing a serified 'T'. I have this cover (Fig. 4 above) postmarked Duala, Kamerun 8.3.17 to confirm such usage. This is four years before Marty Bratzel's first recorded date. He also gives 1921 as his own observed first date of usage in French Cameroun of the German boxed 'T' handstamp. No doubt a specialised study of French usage of both these and other *taxe* marks would reveal earlier dates.

**Figure 5.** British Cameroons cover from Buea 19.8.33 to England showing extended use by the British of the German boxed 'T' handstamp post-WWI; address side (reverse side in Fig. 6 on next page).







**Figure 6.** British Cameroons cover from Buea 19.8.33 to England showing extended use by the British of the German boxed 'T' handstamp post-WWI; reverse.

Finally, this German boxed 'T' type also saw extended use in the British Cameroons, as seen on this cover (Fig. 5 on the previous page and Fig. 6 above) to England, postmarked Buea, Cameroons 19.8.33. The application, whilst probably made at Buea, could have been made when transiting Victoria (22.8.33), the main sorting office. The handstamp may have been found left behind in Buea by the Germans along with the single Buea postal date stamp. Or it could have been brought over to Victoria (where no postal stamps were found) by the British, together with the imperial weights and measures for letters and parcels from the former CEF Post Office, Duala.

#### *References:*

- [1] Martin P. Bratzel, Jr., "Cameroun 'Taxe' Marks," *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Dec. 2007): 124-126.
- [2] E. John Mayne, "Shorter Items – Including Questions & Answers: German 'Taxe' Marks on Togo and Cameroon Mail," *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (June 2008): 41-42.
- [3] Martin P. Bratzel, Jr., "Shorter Items – Including Questions & Answers: German 'Taxe' Marks on Togo and Cameroon Mail," *Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (June 2008): 42. ■



### **In Other Journals**

by John Kevin Doyle, doyle-stamps @ att.net

Alan Lauer sent a link to an article "A train ride across Tanzania," which appeared in *The Washington Post* 24 Sept. 2010. The article focuses on a modern trip on the Central Railway, but includes a fair amount of history of the railways and the scramble for Africa. The link is <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/24/AR2010092403675.html?referrer=emailarticle>. ■



## German Post Card from Akonolinga, Kamerun, January 1916

by M. P. Bratzel, Jr., [marty\\_bratzel @ yahoo.ca](mailto:marty_bratzel@yahoo.ca)

The German postal agency at Akonolinga, Kamerun closed December 30, 1915 [4]. French troops occupied and garrisoned the town by or on January 15, 1916 [2], [3]. The deceptively unassuming post card (Mi. P15) in Fig. 1 below (address side) and Fig. 2 on the next page (message side) has no postal markings. The message is datelined Akon. [Akonolinga] January 4, 1916, five days after the postal agency had closed but before the Germans had evacuated the town. The card was probably carried by messenger.

The sender was staff Dr. Karl Roesener who, prior to the war, had been investigating sleeping sickness at Jaunde and, later, was attached to the defense force. Roesener sent the card to his acquaintance, Dr. Hugo Kalweit, at Kolessi. Both Roesener and Kalweit were ultimately interned together at Zaragoza, Spain [5].

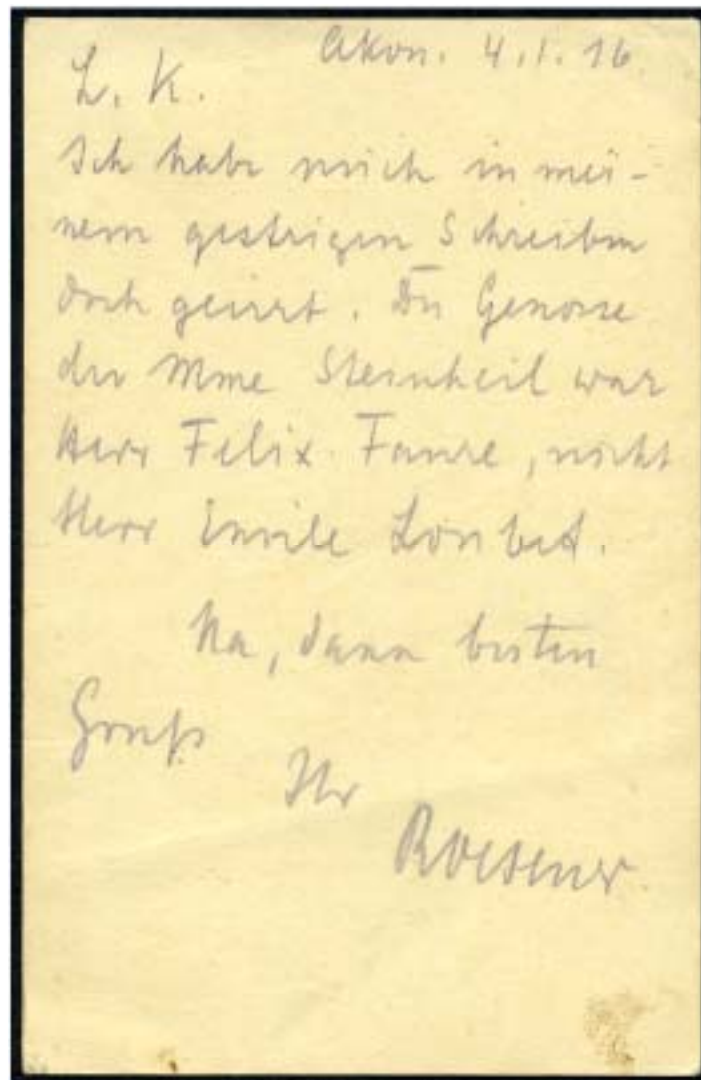
Kolessi is not listed in the 1913 *Adressbuch* [1] nor shown on contemporary maps of the period. The location was probably a temporary encampment, along the line of German retreat to the southwest, toward Ebolowa, but may possibly have been across the border in neutral Spanish Rio Muni.

The message is a bit cryptic and indeed trivial, in light of the momentous events taking place and the retreat and evacuation that would be complete just six weeks later. In translation, “Dear Kalweit, I was mistaken in my message of yesterday. The companion of Mme. Steinheil was Felix Faure, not Emile Lonbet. Well, then best greetings. Yours, Roesener.” Faure and Lonbet were French. Were they German prisoners, or were the doctors corresponding about something in the past?

Thanks are extended to Wolfgang Herterich who kindly confirmed my interpretation of the card and provided additional information about the sender and the recipient.

**Figure 1.** January 1916 postal card from Akonolinga to “Kolessi”; address side.





**Figure 2.** January 1916 postal card from Akonolinga to “Kolessi”; message side.

### References

- [1] *Adressbuch für Togo und Kamerun, Jahrgang 1913*, Herman Paetel Verlag G.m.b.H. Berlin (1913).
- [2] Ludwig Boell, *Der Krieg in den deutschen Kolonien. 3. Teil Kamerun*: 265, manuscript in Bundesarchiv, Militärarchiv, Freiburg.
- [3] Général Aymérich, *La Conquête du Cameroun. 1<sup>er</sup> août 1914 - 20 février 1916*. Payot, Paris (1933).
- [4] Albert Friedemann, *Die Postwertzeichen und Entwertung der deutschen Postanstalten in den Schutzgebieten und im Ausland*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Dr. Wittmann Verlag, Munich (1967).
- [5] Wolfgang Herterich, *Deutsches Kolonialblatt. Jahrgänge 1915 - 1919. Auszug. Kamerun*. Compiled and published by the author, Waldkirch (1994). ■



## Changes in the ArGe Cancel Catalog MSP Listings

by Paul Czopek, p.czopek @ clearwire.net

When I received the new 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the ArGe Cancel catalog [2] in early February, I glanced through it quickly and set it aside. Several weeks later, I had the occasion to check the pricing on a Marine Schiffspost (MSP) cancel and noticed that there had been some changes made in the

catalog. Further examination revealed that ArGe has added considerable information and changed the way in which it is presented.

In the past, information on ships was listed under individual colonies and the dates given covered the entire time of deployment from the time the ship left Germany until she returned home. Now, the catalog has an index of all ships listed by their cancel numbers in the back of the catalog [2: 180]. The dates given include the outward-bound trip, the time in the colonial waters and the return trip. The price quoted though applies only to the dates the ship was not in German colonial waters. For example; the price quoted for an individual vessel would only apply to mail posted from foreign harbors on the outward or homeward bound trips. Prices for mail sent through the German postal system are listed in the MSP section of each individual colony.

The MSP listing for specific colonies includes the dates the ship was actually in colonial waters. In the case of MSP cancels for ships chartered for use during the Boxer Rebellion, the time of their deployment is listed along with an additional listing, "Liegezeit in China". This roughly translates to lying in Chinese waters. This is the time that the ship was anchored or berthed in Asian waters or used for other purposes after off-loading its cargo of troops before returning to Germany. The price difference between the two dates can be quite dramatic and I assume that this stems from the reduced volume of mail generated after the departure of the troops. This lack of mail volume has led to the addition of many examples of n.b. (nicht bekannt) or item not known, listed after the "Liegezeit in China" entry.

I started checking through my accumulation of MSP cancels and was quite thrilled to find an example of an n.b. listing in my collection. Fig. 1 shows a Feldpost card from the steamer *Batavia*, MSP No. 28 with the date 10.9.00, which falls within the time period in which no known examples have been recorded (Sept. 9 through Oct. 24, 1900) [2: 38]. I quickly searched the rest of my collection and found what I thought was another example of an n.b. listing. Fig. 2 shows a card with the cancel of the chartered steamer *Crefeld*, MSP No. 13. This ship is listed in the Kiautschou section of MSP cancels and the date falls with the time span given for the n.b. listing [2: 157]. I was feeling quite happy about the situation until I cross checked the listing for

**Figure 1.** 10 Sept. 1900 Feldpost card from *Batavia*.





Figure 2. 8 Oct. 1898 MSP card from Crefeld.

the *Crefeld* in the index in the back of the catalog. The general index listed the same dates and gave a price quote of €50 rather than an n.b. listing! I was more than a little confused and enlisted the help of fellow group member Gernot Reiners to try and determine why this discrepancy existed. It seems that in some cases, the ArGe listing for the deployment of a ship and the time it is listed as being in a specific port are the same. The only way to tell when the ship was in harbor is to consult Pohlmann and Kessing's handbook [1]. It seems that the *Crefeld* was not in Kiautschou, but in the Mediterranean Sea, on the homeward voyage, when the card was posted.

It appears that in some instances (e.g., Kiautschou and German Southwest Africa) the editors of [2] have chosen to use the deployment dates after the ship's listing and refer the user to [1], while in other instances (e.g., MSP listing for Samoa), they have listed the dates that the ships were on station in the colony. I may be reading the situation incorrectly and if I am, please correct me. However, given the number of times I have noted that the catalog uses only deployment dates, it may become necessary for serious collectors to spend their funds (€120 plus shipping) for Pohlmann and Kessing [1].

As collectors re-examine their collections, I am sure that many more items currently labeled as n.b. will start to surface and, as these items are sold at auction, enough data will be established to assign valuations to them. I do not know, though, if ArGe will install some kind of system for collectors to report new finds.

By way of disclaimer, I do not consider myself, in any way, an expert on this subject and welcome any corrections or constructive criticism. I can be reached at p.czopek @ clearwire.net if you care to comment.

#### References:

- [1] Lutz Pohlmann and Jürgen Kessing, *Handbuch und Katalog der deutschen Marine-Schiffspost and Marinepost 1895-1914*, Verlag H. M. Hauschild, Bremen (2009).
- [2] *Ehemalige deutsche Kolonien und Auslandspostämter Stempelkatalog*, 17<sup>th</sup> ed., Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Sammler deutscher Kolonialpostwertzeichen, Berlin (2009). ■



## The Amateur Collector

by Oliver Wyrski, okeeper @ hotmail.com

At the APS Stampshow in August I had the pleasure of meeting with a number of fellow GCCG members. Kevin asked me to discuss this column and review some of the material I had used in past columns. I thought this would be a great idea, as I could get first hand input from some of the members and have a little fun in the process.

The first thing the seven of us did was discuss the cover I profiled in the September 2010 **VORLÄUFER** from Erhard Lotze to August Dietz. At the show I visited the Confederate Stamp Alliance (of which August Dietz was the founder) and showed them the article I had written. They promptly gave me a copy of their latest journal, which had Dietz on the cover (Fig. 1 at right). It still amazes me that all these events just happen to connect. This is a great hobby!



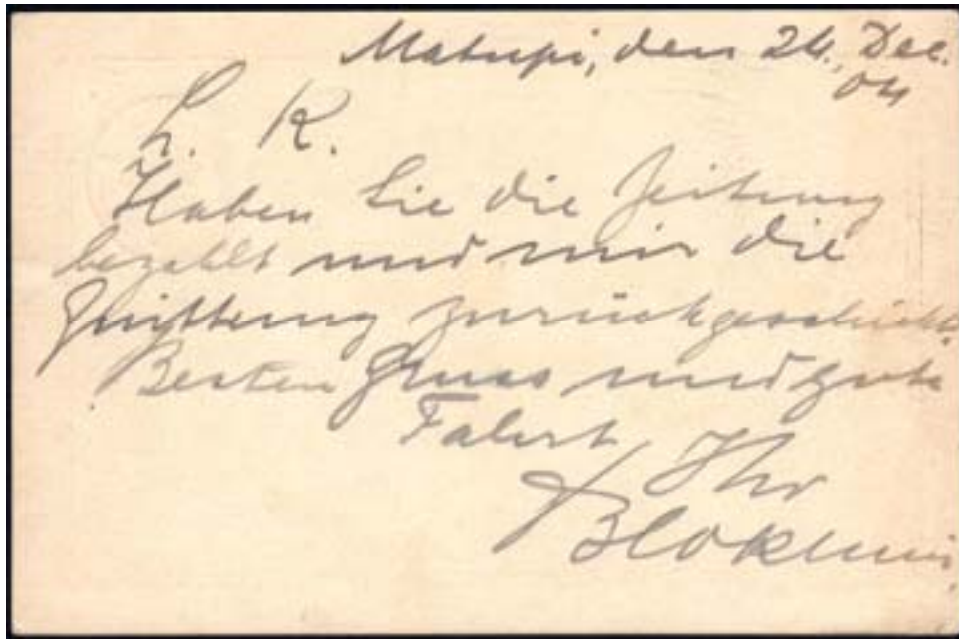
**Figure 1.** August Dietz [4].

Anyway, back to the meeting. Not to rehash the September column, but we discussed the cover and more so the implication of the contents. While we mostly agreed that this letter confirmed that Herr Lotze ran a cancel-to-order operation, we were still intrigued by the cover. The figures calculated on the back of the letter caused much discussion. Jerry Miller suggested that Herr Lotze was calculating the exchange rate, of four marks to the dollar, and we all agreed. Sometimes it just takes fresh eyes.

The second cover I profiled was part of my experiment in collaboration for this column. The meeting provided me a golden opportunity to unscramble a cover in real time with people who knew what they were talking about (not amateur collectors). The card is a GNG Mi. P9 postal card with a 'MATUI 26.12.04' CDS, addressed to a Mr. Klüffel in Sydney, Australia (Fig. 2 on the previous page). The full address is 'Mr. Klüffel, Lieutenant, I.G.N. (Imperial German Navy),

**Figure 2.** 1904 postal card from GNG to Mr. Klüffel on board the *RPD Gneisenau* in Sydney; address side.





**Figure 3.** 1904 postal card from GNG to Mr. Klüffel on board the *RPD Gneisenau* in Sydney; message side.

Sydney, On board the German Mail Steamer „Gneisenau“ . That gives us quite a lot to chew on. The back of the card (Fig. 3 above) is datelined “Matupi, 26. Dec. 04” with a short note in German asking Mr. Klüffel if he paid for the newspaper and sent back the receipt. The sender ends with ‘best greetings and a good journey, yours, Bloklein’.

I presented all this information to the members who attended the meeting and we had a healthy discussion about the card. One comment was that the writing looked unusual and out of place. Mostly we focused on the intent and knowledge of the sender as to the whereabouts of the ‘German Mail Steamer Gneisenau’. None of us were familiar with a mail steamer of this name operating in the German Pacific colonies. Overall the cover looked genuine, with no philatelic intent, but there was still a doubt that it possibly it was written on a favor cancelled card after the date on the cancel. Jerry Miller suggested looking at the written ink to see if it had been disturbed by the cancel. Who would have thought of that? Looking at it under a 10× magnifier was inconclusive.

When I returned home from the show, the first place I looked for information on the German mail steamer *Gneisenau* was in the ArGe Stemplekatalog [2]. There are two mentions of a *Gneisenau* in the Kiautschou section on MSP cancels, but with dates in 1911 and 1913, nowhere close to the time we are talking about.

The next stop was my newly acquired Crüsemann translation [1] (purchased from the GPS), which my faithful readers will know I sorely needed. First I found a listing for a *SS Gneisenau* (not to be confused with the famous heavy cruiser *SMS Gneisenau*). The *SS Gneisenau* was a RPD (Reichspostdampfer) of the NDL (Nord Deutsche Lloyd) built in 1904. Its first tour, HLN (Haupt List Nummer) 23 using MSP cancel 2, had it in Sydney from 4 to 7 Jan. 1904 [1: 96]. I also looked under the MSP 2 heading and found more information about *SS Gneisenau* and HLN 22 and 23 [1: 28]. So it looks like Mr. Klüffel was most probably a Lieutenant on the *SMS Möwe* and on his way back to Germany when someone tried to send him a postcard. Not so remarkable when you think about it, but a nice mystery to unravel.

A few days after getting back from APS Stampshow I received a wonderful email from Jerry Miller. Jerry had looked through his Pohlmann and Kessing handbook [3] and found the following additional information:

1. *SMS Möwe* was a survey ship with about 132 crew members aboard in GNG waters. An exchange of crew in early 1905 was to take place at Sydney.
2. The RPD *Prinz Sigismund* (which sailed between GNG and Singapore) was at Matupi 23-24 Dec. 1904, and transported the *Möwe* crew from Matupi to Sydney.
3. At Sydney, the RPD (Reichspostdampfer) *Gneisenau* of NDL's Australian Main Line was at Sydney to transport the *Möwe* crew back to Bremerhaven. The *Gneisenau* departed Sydney on 7 Jan. 1905, travelling Melbourne, Adelaide, Freemantle, Columbo, Aden, Port Said, Naples, Genoa, Southampton, Antwerp, and arrived at Bremerhaven on 26. Feb. 1905.

I guess the last remaining question would be to confirm that there was in fact a Leutnant Klüffel on the *SMS Möwe* between 1902 and 1904? Can anyone help me out?

Thanks to everyone who helped, but a special thank you Jerry Miller. You're my hero!

#### References:

- [1] Friedrich Crüsemann, *Deutsche Marine-Schiffspost*, trans. Walter Scheck, Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society, London (1981).
- [2] *Ehemalige deutsche Kolonien und Auslandspostamter Stempelkatalog*, 17<sup>th</sup> ed., Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Sammler deutscher Kolonialpostwertzeichen e.V. (ArGe Kolonien), Berlin (2009): 153. available through the ArGe Kolonial; contact Friedrich Steinmeyer, Grosse Fuhren 35, D-27308 Kirchlinteln, GERMANY; f.steinmeyer@t-online.de.
- [3] Lutz Pohlmann and Jürgen Kessing, *Handbuch und Katalog der deutschen Marine-Schiffspost and Marinepost 1895-1914*, Verlag H. M. Hauschild, Bremen (2009). Available through the ArGe Kolonial; contact Friedrich Steinmeyer, Grosse Fuhren 35, D-27308 Kirchlinteln, GERMANY; f.steinmeyer@t-online.de.
- [4] *The Confederate Philatelist*, Vol. 55, No. 3 (July-September 2010), front cover. ■



## Surf's Up: Websites of Interest to German Colonies Collectors

by A. Lavar Taylor, lavartaylor @ cox.net

GCCG members who are interested in the history of German New Guinea (GNG) will find the detailed time line found at <http://www.schudak.de/timelines/germannewguinea1873-1919.html> to be most interesting. The time line starts with 1873, when Johann Cesar Goddefroy & Sohn and Hersheim & Kompagnie established trading posts in the Bismarck Archipelago and continues to 1919, when Germany gave up her rights to GNG under the Treaty of Versailles.

Along the way, the time line notes many different events. On April 1, 1899, the German government took over the political administration of GNG from the German New Guinea Company. In October and November of that year, the Caroline Islands (including the Palau Islands) and the Mariana Islands became administrative subdivisions of GNG.

On 1 Jan. 1904, Kaiser Wilhelmsland had a population of 113 Europeans, including 98 Germans. In 1905, the ship *Seestern* transported 150 natives from GNG to GEA for military training. In that same year the governor of GNG issued a decree regulating Chinese immigration to GNG. Chinese laborers had previously been brought to GNG to work in the fields.

There are many more interesting facts contained in this time line. I will save these for your collective reading of the website. In the next column I will discuss similar time lines of the political histories of other former German Colonies maintained at related websites. ■



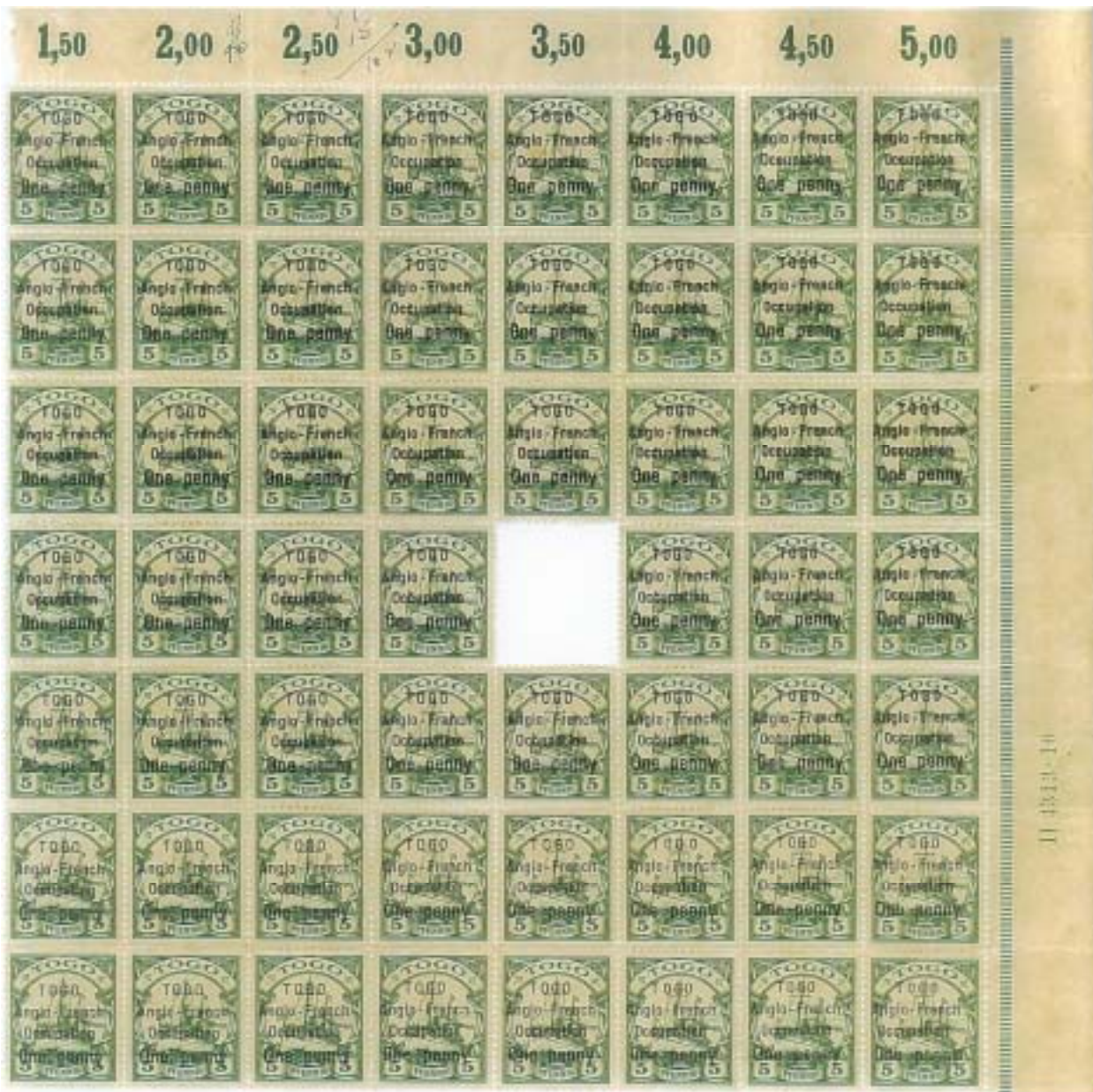
### Togo 28 and the Smoking Gun

by Thomas N. Bernard, Jr., tbernard @ knology.net

One of the most intriguing aspects of collecting the British Occupation stamps of the former German Colonies, or “War Stamps,” as they are often called, is acquiring the variations that occur among these issues. Some variations are quite obvious and constitute major printing errors, while others are quite subtle. Without a doubt, Robert M. Gibbs has contributed more than anyone else to the understanding of this subject, and his authoritative monograph, *G.R.I.* [1], remains the primary resource of knowledge in this area.

I refer to the Stanley Gibbons catalog in this article, rather than Michel as is the tradition in **VORLÄUFER**, in addition to Gibbs [1]. The SG catalog has a more detailed listing of occupation overprint varieties than Michel, and Gibbs lists the SG number for each variety.

**Figure 1.** Large block of SG 28 with stamp at position 37, Gibbs 28b “Tog” error removed. Overprint in rows 1-5 show the “heavy overprint in jet-black shiny ink” variety, Gibbs 28d. Note that the overprints in rows 1-5 are higher on the stamps than in rows 6 and 7.





**Figure 2.** Stamp A on left, Gibbs 28*db* compared to stamp B on right, Gibbs 28. There is an obvious difference in the intensity of the overprints, and the overprint on stamp A is higher than on stamp B. On stamp A, the straight arrow points to a tan colored stain below the “h” in French, and the bent arrow to a light colored stain on the right margin. These subtle markings help to confirm that stamp A was the stamp removed from position 37 in the block shown in Fig. 1.

To fully appreciate the printing variations, when possible, it is helpful to inspect a complete sheet or large block of these stamps. Recently, I purchased a large block of Togo 28 (Fig. 1 below) with the “Tog” error stamp removed at position 37. I hoped that this block contained the Gibbs 28*c* variety, the spaced “nn’s” in Penny. It was difficult to examine this block for any details in the Internet catalog. I later learned that the spaced “nn” variety occurs at positions 2, 52, and 91, and the block I purchased contained columns 3-10 (and so no spaced “nn’s”).

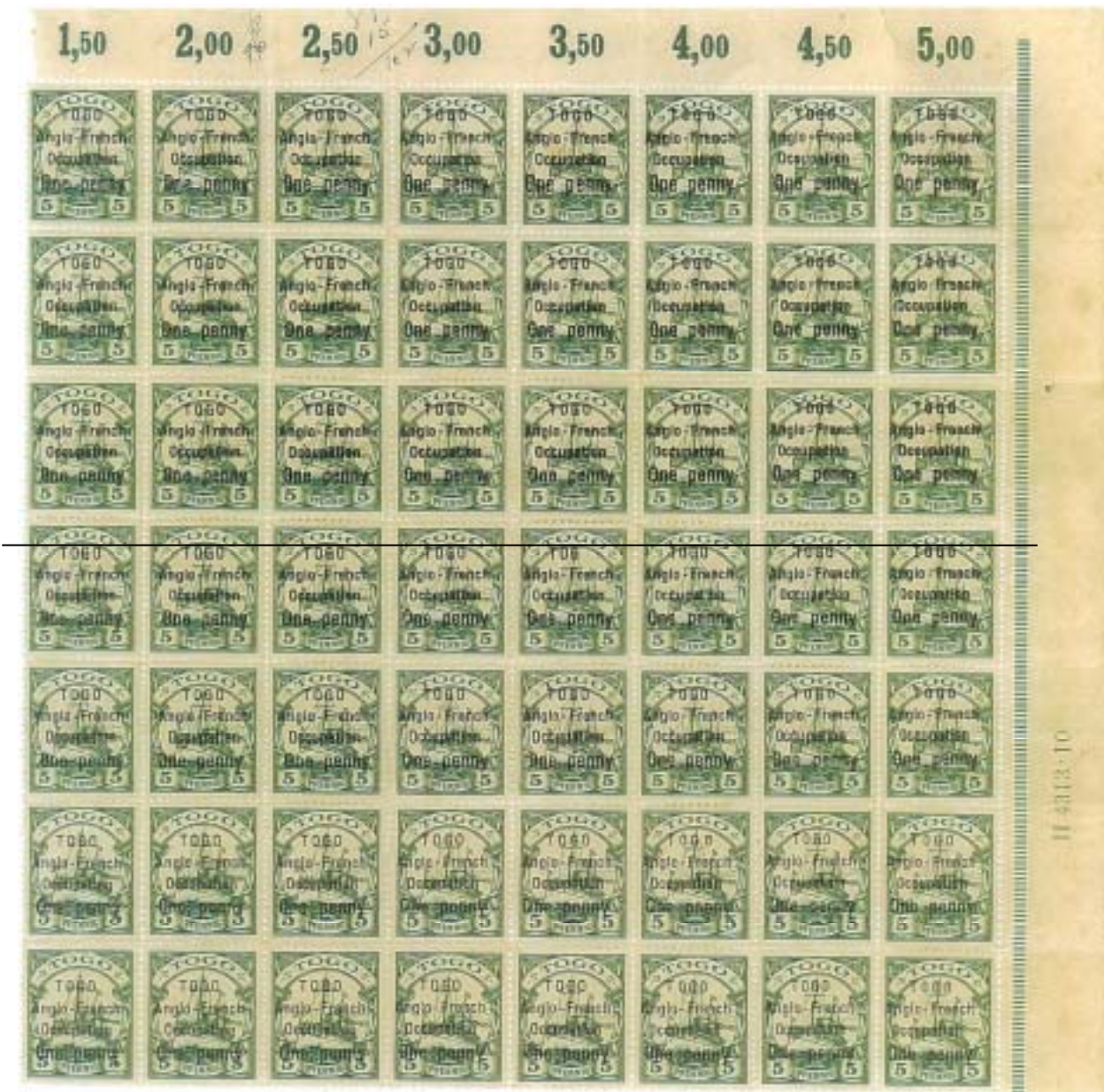
When the block arrived, it was obvious to me that the overprint was much darker in rows 1-5, than in rows 6 and 7. This difference in overprint intensity became more apparent when this block was compared to other 28 copies in my collection.

On pages 191-192 in [1], Gibbs describes the variety 28*d* as “heavy overprint in jet-black shiny ink,” and quotes an article published in *Ewen’s Weekly Stamp News*, July 17, 1915, first describing this heavily inked variety. In addition, Gibbs suggests that the “Tog” error in the heavily inked variety at position 37, 28*db*, has not been recorded, but “almost certainly exists.”

It occurred to me that the block which I had just purchased might be the “smoking gun” proof that the 28*db* must exist. The stamp removed at position 37 in this block must be a heavily overprinted variety of 28. With great excitement about this possibility, I spoke with Robert Gibbs and he agreed to take a look at a color reproduction of Fig. 1 and give me an “unofficial” opinion [2].

In our conversation, he explained to me the process that these sheets of stamps went through in printing the overprints. The overprinting was undertaken at the Catholic Mission in Lome, Togo. Herr Schmahl was the printer in charge of this operation and was considered an expert in this field, and a man of “excellent character” [1]. Gibbs explained that due to the limited printing equipment, the sheets were run through the press twice with the bottom half of the sheet printed first. This explains why the 28*d* variety occurs in the top five rows, and the normal appearing ink is present in the remaining five rows. The 28*d* variety was created with the second pass through the press.





**Figure 3.** When the Gibbs 28*db* was placed back in position 37, a straight line could be drawn across the tops of the “T” in Togo as the overprint shifted to a higher position on the stamps from left to right. The reinserted stamp seemed to fit exactly.

After examining the material I sent him, Gibbs felt that my block contained the 28*d* variety. He estimated that there were probably two or three sheets with this heavily inked overprints in positions 1-50. This would mean that there are possibly three copies of the “Tog” error in heavy ink. At this point, I felt that I had indirect evidence that Gibbs 28*db* must exist.

The same auction house offered a group of Togo overprints from setting 2 a few weeks later. In the lot there was a “Tog” error, 28*b* (Fig. 2 on the previous page). To my amazement, it appeared to be a heavy overprint variety, 28*bd*. When this stamp arrived, my suspicion was confirmed. Could this stamp be the one previously removed from position 37 in my block?





**Figure 4.** The arrows point to tan discolorations present on the stamp in position 7, between the stamps in positions 17 and 18, and most notably between the stamps in position 37 and 38 where the patterns of the stains match across the perforation lines. There is a much darker tan stain below the “h” in French. This pattern of staining gives secondary evidence that the stamp in position 37 originated from the block in Fig. 1, and is the *28db* variety.

I spoke again with Robert Gibbs, and he advised me to carefully place the single stamp back in position 37 in the block and carefully follow the path of “T” in Togo as the overprint tracks from left to right. He explained that the overprint in the *28d* variety is not only displaced towards the top of the stamp, but also takes an angular path from the left side of the sheet towards the right (Fig. 3 on the previous page).

My single stamp seemed to fit in place, but I was not entirely convinced that this single *28db* came from this block. I then enlarged the block with the single stamp carefully in place, and found the proof I was looking for. The single stamp (Fig. 2) has a small brown stain just below the “h” in French. I notice that this same color stain, although lighter in appearance occurred on the stamps at positions 7, 17-18, and 37-38. Just to the right of the frame of the single stamp in position 37, and in the left side of the stamp in position 38, this same brownish stain occurs which matches precisely when the stamps are put together (Fig. 4 above).

So stamp A in Fig. 2 was the “bullet” from the “smoking gun” which confirms the existence of *28db*.



**Figure 5.** Arrow point to defective “e” in One at position 33.

In addition, there is damage to the “e” in “One” at position 33 (Fig. 5 above). This variety is not reported by Gibbs, and it would be interesting to know from examination of other multiples of this stamp whether this is a reoccurring variety at position 33.

*References:*

- [1] Robert M. Gibbs, *G.R.I.*, Christie’s-Robson Lowe, Bournemouth (1988).
- [2] Robert M. Gibbs, personal communications, January 17, 2010, February 2011. ■



**Exhibits and Exhibitions**

by Paul A. Larsen, PALStamp @ aol.com

We happy to once again report that our Editor, Kevin, received a Gold Award in the APS Stampshow 2010 literature competition for the 2009 issues of **VORLÄUFER**.

<i>Exhibitor/Show</i>	<i>Exhibit Title</i>	<i>Award</i>
Kevin Doyle APS Stampshow 12-15 August 2010 Richmond, VA	<b>VORLÄUFER</b> , Journal of the German Colonies Collectors Group (Literature)	Gold
Jerry Miller BALPEX 2010 3-5 Sept. 2010 Hunt Valley, MD	Crown & Eagle Series: The 2 Pfennig Value of 1900- 1902 and its usages (SF).	Not for competition
Paul Larsen BALPEX 2010	Caroline Islands to 1914: The Spanish and German Periods.	Not for competition
Larry Gardner BALPEX 2010	German Postal Agencies in Morocco.	Vermeil, GPS Vermeil
Alfred Kugel BALPEX 2010	Allied Occupation of the Former German Colonies 1914-1922.	Vermeil, GPS Vermeil
Regis Hoffman BALPEX 2010	Allied Forces in East Africa, World War I.	Vermeil





## Auctions Under The Glass

by David C. Robertson,  
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Württembergisches Auktionshaus' 110<sup>th</sup> auction was held 3-4 Sept. 2010 (Relenbergstr. 78, D-70174 Stuttgart, Germany; [www.briefmarkenauktion.de](http://www.briefmarkenauktion.de)).

**Kionga:** Lot 30 2½ C./100 Reis (pair) and 5 C./100 Reis on cover to Moudon, Switzerland. Kionga is a small coastal region south of the Rowuma River in the southeast corner of GEA that was serviced by the nearby post office in Lindi. Kionga was seized by Portuguese troops during WWI and eventually annexed to Mozambique. The cover is cancelled 'MOCAMBIQUE 1/10 17' in violet, with censor markings from French military officials. The back has an arrival cancel 14.2.1918. Est. €2,500, *unsold*. Illustrated below left.

**Offices in Morocco:** Lot 5098 Mi. 36, 10 Cent/10 Pf. ("cc") on Δ. Cancelled 'FES-MELLAH MAROKKO 20.8.11' (Fr. 11); Jäschke-Lantelme certificate. ArGe Cat. €200, Est. 200, PR 180 + 20%. Illustrated at right.



**Offices in Turkey:** Lot 5111 Mi. NV17, 2 Gr., forerunner, strip of three on Δ cancelled 'CONSTANTINOPEL N.P.A. 9/12 70' (Fr. 3); Steuer certificate. Mi. Cat. €900, Est. 250, PR 260 + 20%. Illustrated at right.



Lot 5112 Mi. NV25, 10 Gr., with manuscript cancel 'Constantinopel 3-12-70'; Steuer certificate. The small perforation faults are typical of this issue and are included in the Mi. value. Mi. Cat. €3,000, Est. 700, PR 720 + 20%. Illustrated at left.

**German East Africa:** Lot 5390 Mi. V47b,48b,50c, 10,20,50 Pf., forerunner return-receipt cover to Germany with manuscript 'Avis de Reception' cancel on the 20 Pf. stamp. Cancelled 'DAR-ES-SALAAM 30/8 92' (Fr. 9). The franking is 40 Pf. for postage, 20 for registration and 20 for the return-delivery receipt. This cover is reported as the first with a complete manuscript cancel, although individual stamps are known. Est. €5,000, PR 5,000 + 20%. Illustrated below right.





Lot 5584 Mi. 38IAb, 3 Rupie watermarked used on packet card. Cancelled 'LINDI 7/7 16' (Fr. 32) and backstamped 'KILWA 10/7 16' (Fr. 23). Stamp has been removed for watermark verification. This is copy VL32 in the GCCG census; Grobe and Steuer certificates. Mi. Cat. €65,000, Est. 40,000, PR 36,000 + 20%. Illustrated below left.

Lot 5692 Mi. 31, 2½ Heller on Δ, cancelled 'UTETE 14.1 14' (Fr. 75); Jäschke-Lantelme certificate. ArGe Cat. €400, Est. 300, PR 270 + 20%. Illustrated below center top.

**Cameroons:** Lot 6225 Mi. 7, 3 Pf. on Δ, cancelled 'IKELEMBBA 12.7 14' (Fr. 29); Brekenfeld certificate. ArGe Cat. €1,500, Est. 1,000, PR 1,050 + 20%. Illustrated below center bottom.

Lot 6272 Mi. 9, 10 Pf. on cover to Germany, cancelled 'UKOKO 20.7 14' (Fr. 59). ArGe Cat. €300, Est. 150, PR 260 + 20%. Illustrated below right.

**Marianen Islands:** Lot 6541 Mi. 5I, 25 Pf. on Δ with Sorte I cancel 'SAIPAN 1/4 00' (Fr. 1); Jäschke-Lantelme certificate. Mi. Cat. €3,200, Est. 900, PR 900 + 20%. Illustrated at right.

Lot 6543 Mi. 6I, 50 Pf. on Δ with Sorte I cancel 'SAIPAN 5/12 00' (Fr. 1); Pfenninger certificate. Mi. Cat. €3,000, Est. 900, PR 1,050 + 20%. Illustrated at right.



Christoph Gärtner's 15<sup>th</sup> auction was held on 7-10 Sept. 2010 ([www.auktionen-gaertner.de](http://www.auktionen-gaertner.de); Steinbeisstr. 6+8, 74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany).

**Offices in Turkey:** Lot 10082 Mi. V17b, 1/3 Gr., dark emerald green on Δ cancelled 'KDPA CONSTANTINOPEL 22/1 73' (Fr. 5); Steuer certificate. Mi. Cat. €3,500, Est. 1,800, PR 1,500 + 20%. Illustrated top of next page at far left.





**Cameroons:** Lot 10247 Mi. 16, 1 Mk. on local registered cover, cancelled 'DUALA 24.4 09' (Fr. 19). Mi. Cat. €150 (single-franking on cover), Est. 100, PR 160 + 20%. Illustrated previous page at bottom left.

**Marianen Islands:** Lot 10308 Mi. 8,11, 5 and 25 Pf. on registered cover to Bremen with arrival cancel. Cancelled 'SAIPAN 11/5 12' (Fr. 1). Mi. Cat. €222, Est. 80, PR 270 + 20%. Illustrated previous page at bottom right.

**Samoa:** Lot 10338 British Occupation, Mi. BB6I/I (SG 106 var., Gibbs 6A), 3 d./30 Pf. (instead of 4d.), mint, with a comma instead of a period at the end of G.R.I.; Eichele (Basel), Bothe and Philatelic Foundation certificates. Est. €16,000, PR 16,500 + 20%. Illustrated above second from left.

Lot 10340 British Occupation, Mi. BB13I, 5 Sh./5 Mk., used on Δ with a comma at the end of G.R.I., cancelled 'APIA 10.9.14' (Fr. 11). Eichele (Basel) and Holcombe certificates. Mi. Cat. €2,200, Est. 1,300, PR 1,350 + 20%. Illustrated above second from right.

**Togo:** Lot 10350 British Occupation, Mi. BB14I, BB15I, Half Penny/3 Pf. and One Penny/5 Pf. with 3mm line spacing and on Δ. Cancelled 'LOME 1/10 14' (Fr. 15). Mi. Cat. €560, Est. 140, PR 140 + 20%. Illustrated above at right. □



Peter Vogenbeck's 82<sup>nd</sup> auction ([www.petervogenbeck.de](http://www.petervogenbeck.de); Auf dem Sand 18, D-54568 Gerolstein-Müllenborn, Germany) was held on 9 Oct. 2010.

**German East Africa:** Lot 273 Mi. VP25, 10 Pf. vorläufer postal card written from "Station Kilossa bei Kondoa, 22/9 93" and cancelled 'DAR-ES-SALAAM 29/12 93' (Fr. 10). Text mentions that their commander, Carl Fliessbach, was killed on 28 Aug. during an attack. Mi. Cat. €120, Est. 300, PR 420 + 20%. Illustrated above left.





Lot 274 Mi. 32×2, cancelled with a provisional '5' for the month. One is on  $\Delta$ . Cancelled 'KILOSSA 1/5 08 and 3/5 08' (Fr. 21 IV). ArGe Cat. €100, 50, Est. 70, PR 140 + 20%. Illustrated above left.

Lot 279 Mi. 32, 7½ Heller, on cover to Germany. Cancelled 'KISSENJI 23/7 13' (Fr. 25). ArGe Cat. €450, Est. 480, PR 650 + 20%. Illustrated previous page at right.

**German Southwest Africa:** Lot 379 Mi. M50d, 50 Pf., on registered cover to Hannover. Cancelled 'GROSS-BARMEN 10/10 98' (Fr. 38). This is the only known registered forerunner cover from there. Est. €900, PR 1,300 + 20%. Illustrated above right.

Lot 389 Mi. 16, 30 Pf. on packet card  $\Delta$  with violet Wanderstempel 'Brackwasser 3/1 07' (Fr. 17) with 'REHOBOTH 25/2 07' (Fr. 137) on the reverse. ArGe Cat. €40, Est. 40, PR 70 + 20%. Illustrated at right.



Lot 395 Mi. 8, 20 Pf. on cover with manuscript cancel 'Waterberg 30/11 99' (Fr. 159). A stamp has been cut out from the upper right corner. ArGe Cat. €2,000 (as  $\Delta$ ), Est. 1,800, PR 2,200+20%. Illustrated below left.

Lot 500 Mi. 28x, 30 Pf. with white to yellowish paper, on registered cover to Berlin. Cancelled 'WINDHUK 19.10.12' (Fr. 168). Mi. Cat. €1,200, Est. 380, PR 380 + 20%. Illustrated below right.

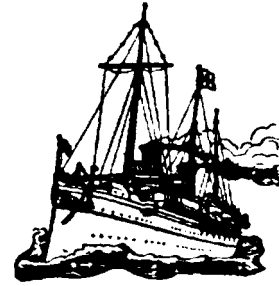
Lot 502 Mi. 28y, 30 Pf. with rare orange-white paper, on registered cover to Berlin. Cancelled 'WINDHUK 9.1.14' (Fr. 168). Stamp has a rounded corner and is unpriced in Michel. Est. €420, PR 420 + 20%. Illustrated page 1.





## German Colonial History: Togo and the Cameroons Trusteeships

by James C. Biedzynski,  
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This column is devoted to the United Nations Trusteeships of the Cameroons and Togo, both administered by Britain and France. Neither territory was ever a British or French territory and thus had a somewhat different status from regular colonies. The UN was determined that all trusteeships should become independent states as soon as possible. As it happened, France had inaugurated the French Union in 1946, which gave the Cameroons representation in the French Parliament. The Cameroons was a bit more developed politically than other parts of French Africa. Various political parties sprang up, the most important of which was the UPC (Union of Cameroonian Populations). The French tried to suppress the UPC and the Cameroons experienced several revolts during the mid 1950s. By late 1958, the UN resolved that the Cameroons should be independent. The French had granted substantial autonomy to the trusteeship by that time and it became independent on 1 Jan. 1960. Togo had a more peaceful transition towards independence and became independent on 27 Apr. 1960.

Major issues in the trusteeships were the new states' borders. Togo and the Cameroons had been reduced in size from the German colonial state that preceded them. There were nationalists in the Cameroons and Togo that wanted the pre-1914 borders restored. Part of German Togoland was attached to the British colony of the Gold Coast after World War I. It contained numerous members of the Ewe tribe which was also the predominant ethnic group in Togo. There were calls for a united Eweland but British Togoland voted to remain with the Gold Coast when it received independence in 1957 and became the Republic of Ghana. After 1960, there was some discussion of uniting Ghana and Togo, but that came to nothing.

Part of the German colony of Kamerun was attached to Nigeria after WWI. It held a plebiscite in 1960, with part of it voting to join Cameroon and part voting to remain with Nigeria. The portion that joined Cameroon merged with it in 1961. Nonetheless, some Cameroonian nationalists still longed to restore the 1914 borders that marked the German colony. Thus, we can see that the shadow of German colonialism lingered long after the Germans departed.

Very little is written about Togo and the Cameroon's transition to independence as well as border issues. Victor T. Levine's *The Cameroons-from Mandate to Independence* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1964) is a good study. Also of note is Neville Rubin's *Cameroun, An African Federation* (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1971). There are a few articles on this subject. One useful one is: Margaret Roberts, "Political Prospects for the Cameroun," *World Today*, 16 (July 1960): 305-313. Richard A. Joseph's, "Ruben Um Nyobe and the 'Kamerun' Rebellion," *African Affairs*, 73 (October 1974): 428-448 surveys the turbulent 1950s. George R. Horner's "Togo and the Cameroon," *Current History* 34 (February 1958): 84-90 looks at both trusteeships. Dennis Austin's "The Uncertain Frontier: Ghana-Togo," *Modern African Studies*, 1 (June 1963): 139-145, provides a useful study of the border question. □

In my next column, we will have a look at Southwest Africa after German rule ended in 1915. ■

### The Road Less Traveled

Unusual Usages To and From German Offices and Colonies

by A. Lavar Taylor, lavartaylor @ cox.net



Welcome back to the Road Less Traveled! The existence of this column is a testimony to my fascination with mail sent to/from German colonies and offices abroad from/to places outside of the German Empire. Yet even in this narrow category of postal history items were more often than not sent from (or to) German nationals. And many of the items in this narrow category of postal history were philatelically inspired, with notable exceptions such as missionary correspondence. Thus, I get excited when I am able to locate a non-philatelically inspired item of postal history sent from a German colony by a non-German national who was not a missionary to a destination outside of the German Empire. This column's featured cover is such an item.

Fig. 1 below shows the message side of a picture post card that was apparently written by the captain of the *SS Mars*, a British merchant ship, while the ship was docked in Swakopmund, GSWA. The card is datelined 15 Feb. 1912 aboard the *SS Mars*. The message reads as follows:

“Arrived all well. Good trip, only lost 4 animals. Going on to Durban. We are at Swakopmund now expect to sail in a day or two. Kindest regards to brothers + all at home. Wife and self both very well + hope the sun is shining over your illustrious family. Good luck. Cap’ Gordion (?)”

Figure 1. 1912 viewcard from Swakopmund to Buenos Aires; sent via HWA’s Frieda Woermann; message side.





**Figure 2.** 1912 viewcard from Swakopmund to Buenos Aires; sent via HWA's *Frieda Woermann*; view side.

The card is addressed to Mr. Joe Stein, Shipchandler, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is franked with a 10 Pf. GSWA stamp, and canceled with a 'DEUTSCHE SEEPOST HAMBURG-WESTAFRIKA 19/2/12 XXXIX'. This cancel was used on the *Frieda Woermann*, which sailed on the DSWA Capstadt Zweiglinie starting in 1910.

A lack of time prevented me from doing thorough research on the *SS Mars*, but it appears to have been built in 1907 by Furness Withing Co. and owned by Humphries, Ltd. It weighed 3,550 tons. During WWI the ship was an armed merchant vessel. It was torpedoed and sunk by the Germans on Aug. 8, 1918.

Perhaps a reader can provide more information about the *SS Mars* and about the shipping route that apparently allowed Cap' Gordion to mail this card aboard the *Frieda Woermann*.

I suspect that the card traveled via a British ship from Capetown to the Azores, where it boarded a ship headed for South America. If any reader has more specific information on the routing of the card, please let me know.

Fig. 2 above shows the picture side of the card, a street in Luderitzbucht.

Please send all comments and reader submissions to me at the email address above. See you next time on the Road Less Traveled. ■



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Two colonial items from our forthcoming Auction No.83 on 8 January 2011, both showing unusual variations of rarely encountered mail to foreign destinations without prepayment of postage.

Above: a 1913 cover from the Post Office at Lome to Austria, obviously causing a bit of a problem at the receiving office, with the initial 30+50 Heller postage due stamps being annulled "Ungültig" and replaced with two 20 Heller postage due stamps.

Below: 26.01.1910 First day of use of the 'WINDHUK c' canceller on an "unfree" card to Russia, with a 10Pf postage due marking, a UPU 25 Ct. postage due marking and a St.Petersburg tax cachet with the 8 Kopeks to be collected from the recipient.

If you've been from pillar to post looking for fine postal history items of the German Colonies, why not contact us for a catalog?

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