Notes:

These Specialized pages include spots for all major varieties. They also include spots for most plate flaws, overprint flaws, etc.

Vorläufer and mitläufer (forerunners) are not included. I anticipate providing a separate file for those in the future.

All watermarks are as viewed from the rear of the stamp. Unless otherwise noted, all plate flaw positions are for partial issues, meaning the plate flaws appear at the position noted on some, but not all, printed sheets.

On pages with stamp photos included, there may be some stamp photos missing due to my inability to find suitable images of those stamps.

At the end of each set is a blank page for each page style used in the set. If you would like additional pages that include custom boxes, text, etc., in a style that exactly matches the existing pages, or if you would like further customizations (odd-size stamp, additional boxes, etc.) to the existing pages, please send me a note through the "Contact Admin" form that's in the footer of every page on my website.

NOTE ON PRINTING: If, when printing, you have the option to print the pages actual size or shrink them to fit the paper, do not select shrink to fit! Doing so will shrink all content, including the stamp boxes, resulting in them being too small. The pages should print correctly at actual size, regardless of any warnings your printer might give.

Cheers,

PostmasterGS

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

In 1869, German missionaries established the first German presence in the territory that would become German East Africa. In 1884, the Company for German Colonization was founded by German explorer Carl Peters, and immediately began establishing treaties with local chiefs in the coastal region.

Flag of the German Colonial Office

Over the next decade, the newly-founded German East Africa Company would increase German influence in the area by opening customs houses and forming agreements with local chiefs and Sultans. In the last years of the 1880s, however, Arabs opposed to the increased European presence began raiding and killing German settlers. The German East Africa Company requested assistance from the Imperial government, which quickly came in the form of ships and men under the command of newly-appointed Imperial Commissioner Hauptmann Hermann von Wissmann. Within a year, the insurrection was crushed, and in 1891, Germany acquired sovereignty over the entire territory.

During the colonial period, Germany operated a total of 58 different post offices throughout the territory, second in number only to German Southwest Africa.

With the outbreak of World War I, German East Africa did not fall as the other German colonies did. German forces under General von Lettow-Vorbeck would embark on a lengthy campaign against British forces in the region, and would remain the only German foreign army in the field for the duration of the war. Lettow-Vorbeck's forces finally surrendered on 25 November 1918, a week after the armistice in Europe.

The area formerly known as German East Africa now comprises all or portions of the modern nations of Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania.

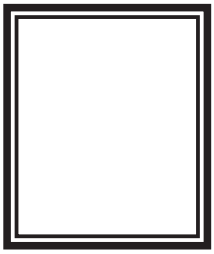
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

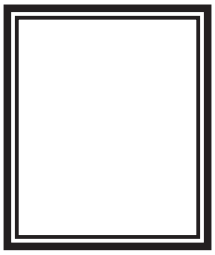
“PESA” Overprint Issues

1 July 1893 / 1896

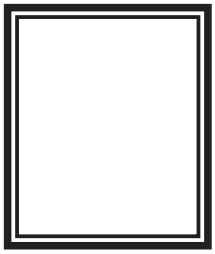
Neudrucke / New Printing



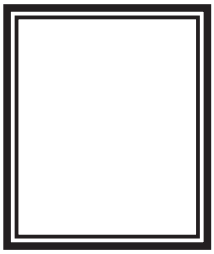
Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint



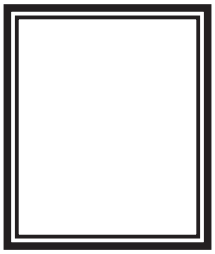
Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
17.0 mm Overprint
Posn. 50



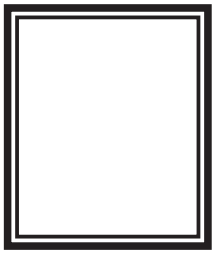
Dark Red Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
(UV) Brownish Black



(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint



(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
14.4 mm Overprint
Posn. 16, 27, 98



(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
16.5 mm Overprint
Posn 5, 55

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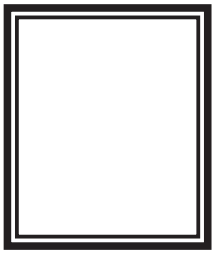
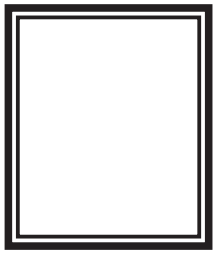
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Issues

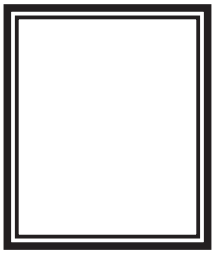
1 July 1893 / 1896



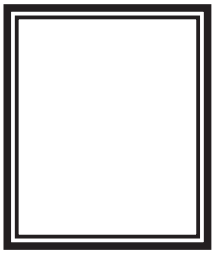
Bright Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Brown
15.4 mm Overprint



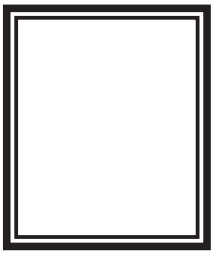
Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Ochre
15.4 mm Overprint



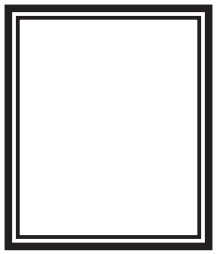
Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
15.4 mm Overprint



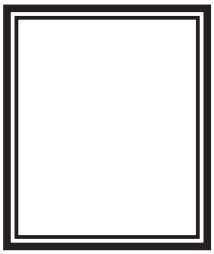
Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red
15.4 mm Overprint



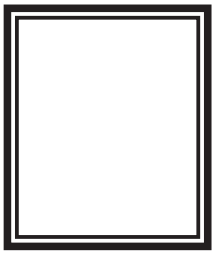
Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Yellow
15.4 mm Overprint



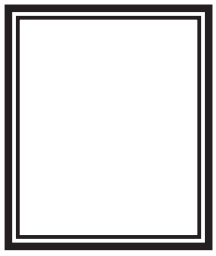
Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
14.4 mm Overprint
Posn. 58



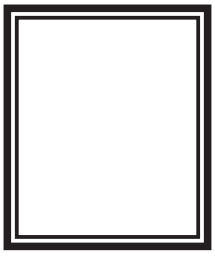
Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
16.5 mm Overprint
Posn. 5



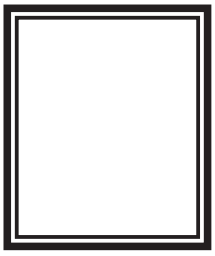
Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig
16.5 mm Overprint



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
16.8 mm Overprint



Medium Brown Red
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
17.8 mm Overprint



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
17.8 mm Overprint

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

"PESA" Overprint Issues

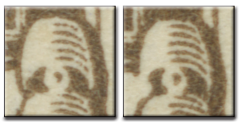
Plate Flaws

1 July 1893 / 1896

Broken "O" (right)

Posn. 50

Break in scroll (right)



Posn. 33, 38, 83, 88

Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
17.0 mm Overprint

Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
17.0 mm Overprint

"C" with cedilla (right)

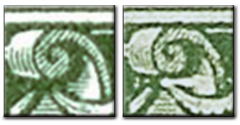
Posn. 15, 20, 65, 70

(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint

(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
14.4 mm Overprint

(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
16.5 mm Overprint

"Comet" at upper right (right)



Posn. 21, 26, 71, 76

(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint

(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
14.4 mm Overprint

(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
16.5 mm Overprint

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Issues

Plate Flaws

1 July 1893 / 1896

Short foot on “P” (right)

Posn. 49 & Unk. Others

Bright Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Brown
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Ochre
15.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
15.4 mm Overprint

Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Yellow
15.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
14.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
16.5 mm Overprint

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

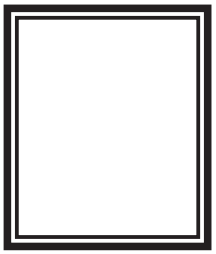
“PESA” Overprint Issues

Plate Flaws

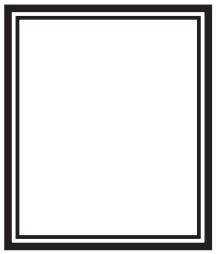
1 July 1893 / 1896

Crossbar on “T” (right)

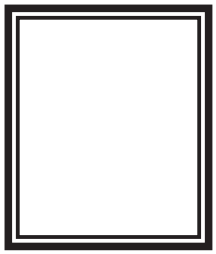
Posn. 7



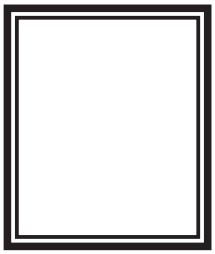
Bright Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Brown
15.4 mm Overprint



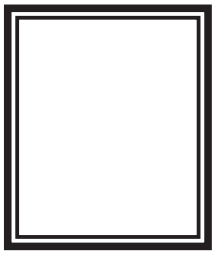
Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Ochre
15.4 mm Overprint



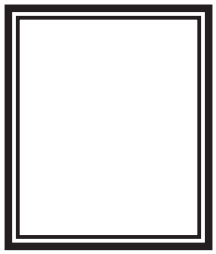
Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
15.4 mm Overprint



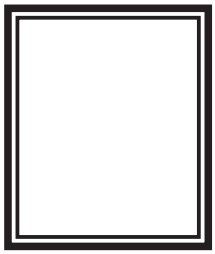
Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red
15.4 mm Overprint



Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Yellow
15.4 mm Overprint



Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
14.4 mm Overprint



Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
16.5 mm Overprint

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Issues

Plate Flaws

1 July 1893 / 1896

Line through left “PF.” (right)

Posn. 7 & Unk. Others

Bright Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Brown
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Ochre
15.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
15.4 mm Overprint

Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Yellow
15.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
14.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
16.5 mm Overprint

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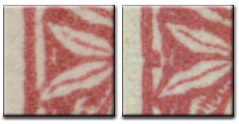
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Issues

Plate Flaws

1 July 1893 / 1896

Dot in left frame
between leaves (right)



Posn. 47

Bright Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Brown
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Ochre
15.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
15.4 mm Overprint

Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red
15.4 mm Overprint

Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Yellow
15.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
14.4 mm Overprint

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
16.5 mm Overprint

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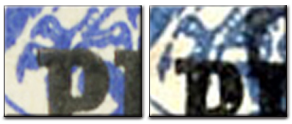
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Issues

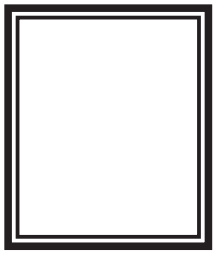
Plate & Overprint Flaws

1 July 1893 / 1896

Missing talon (right)



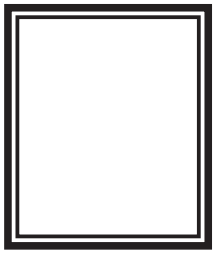
Posn. Unk.



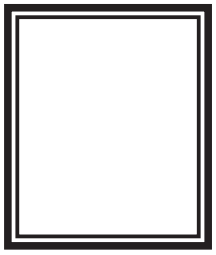
Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig
16.5 mm Overprint

Break in “T” (right)

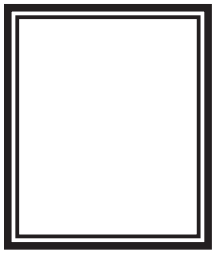
Posn. 39



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
16.8 mm Overprint



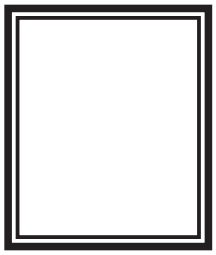
Medium Brown Red
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
17.8 mm Overprint



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
17.8 mm Overprint

Right overprinted
value damaged (right)

Posn. Unk.



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
16.8 mm Overprint

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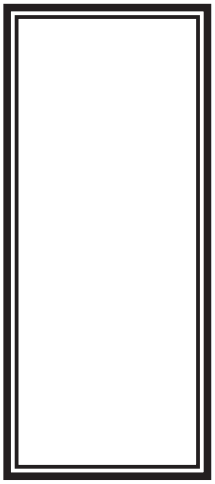
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

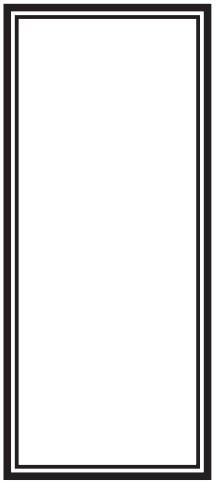
“PESA” Overprint Issues

Gutter Pairs

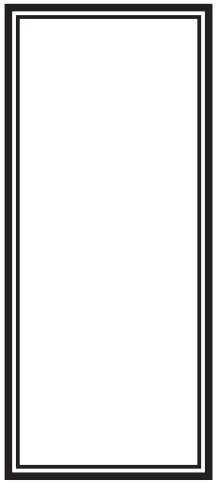
1 July 1893 / 1896



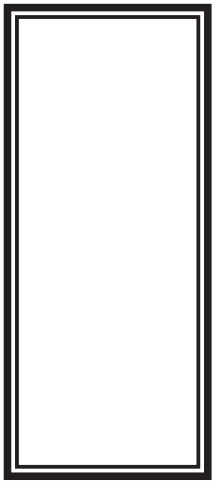
Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint



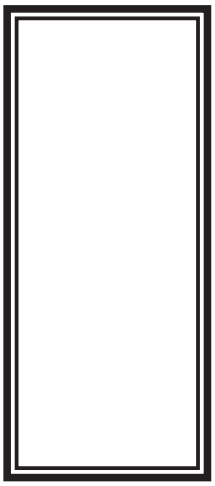
Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
17.0 mm Overprint /
15.4 mm Overprint



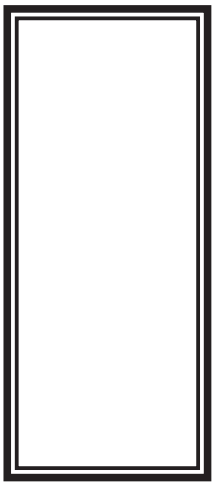
(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint



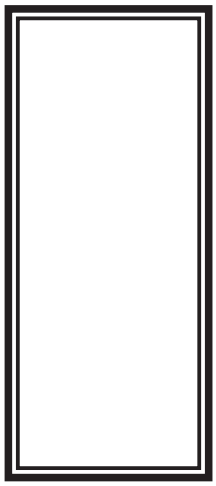
(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig
15.4 mm Overprint /
16.5 mm Overprint



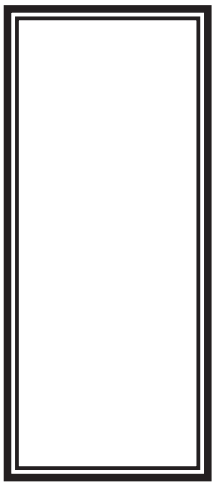
Bright Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Brown
15.4 mm Overprint



Medium (Carmine) Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Ochre
15.4 mm Overprint



Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
15.4 mm Overprint



Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red
15.4 mm Overprint /
14.4 mm Overprint

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Issues

Gutter Pairs

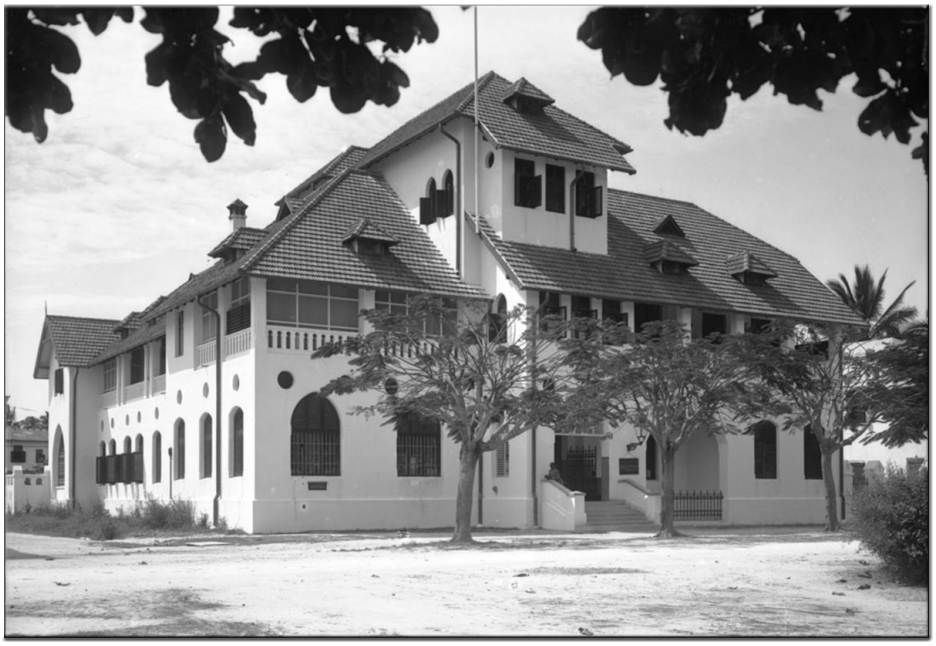
1 July 1893 / 1896

Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig
16.5 mm Overprint

Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
16.8 mm Overprint

Medium Brown Red
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
17.8 mm Overprint

Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig
17.8 mm Overprint

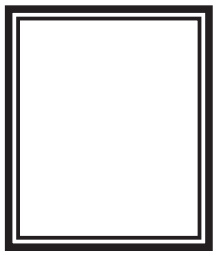


Dar-es-Salaam Post Office, 1902-1914

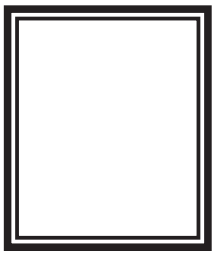
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

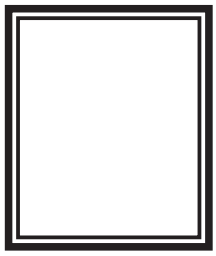
“Werthlos” / “PESA” Overprint Issues



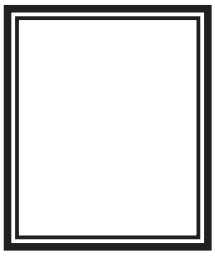
Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig



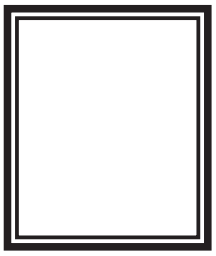
(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig



Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig



Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig

Upon the issuance of the 1893 Overprints, a set of essays was produced and kept in the archive of the Reichsdruckerei (Reich Printing Works).

The stamps differ slightly from the issued stamps. The 10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig value has a red overprint instead of black. The 25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig value has a smaller font for the “PESA” portion of the overprint. All values feature a red “Werthlos” (Worthless) overprint.

The stamps were kept in the archive until 1996, when they were released for public auction.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Essays

Prior to finalizing the design of the “PESA” Overprints, the Reichspost produced ten sets of essays testing different overprint designs. Each set contains five stamps, one of each value that was eventually issued.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“PESA” Overprint Essays

Prior to finalizing the design of the “PESA” Overprints, the Reichspost produced ten sets of essays testing different overprint designs. Each set contains five stamps, one of each value that was eventually issued.

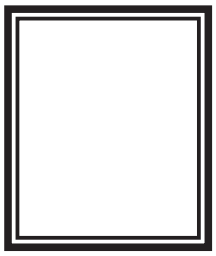
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

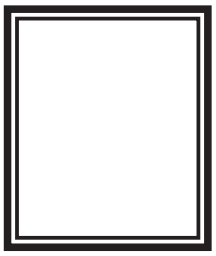
“Deutsch-Ostafrika / Pesa” Overprint Issues

April 1896 / 1899

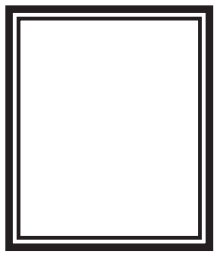
April 1896



Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

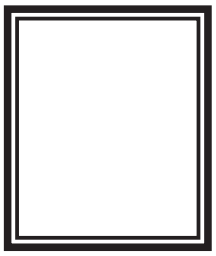


Light Ochre Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

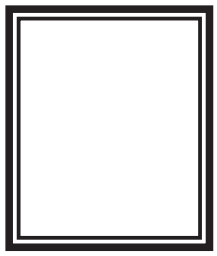


Bright Brown Ochre
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

1899

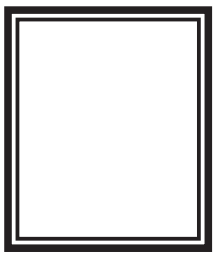


Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
(UV) Brownish Black



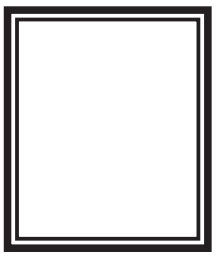
Light Ochre
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

April 1896



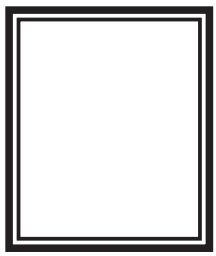
Bright Orange Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

April 1896

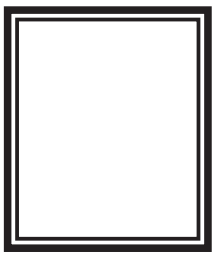


(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig

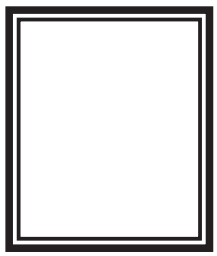
April 1896



Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red

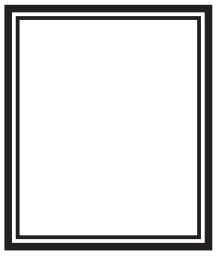


Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red

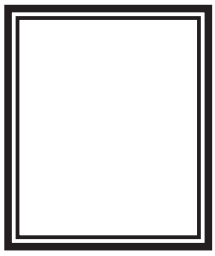


Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Light Vermilion

April 1896

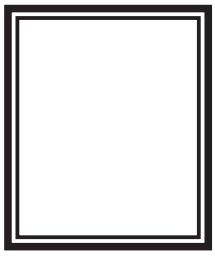


Dark Pink (Red)
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Yellowish Orange



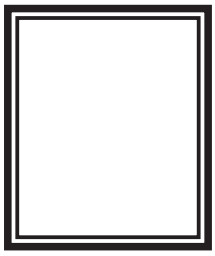
Dark Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Bright Ochre

April 1896



Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig

April 1896



Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig

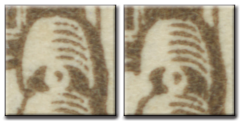
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“Deutsch-Ostafrika / Pesa” Overprints

Plate Flaws

Break in scroll (right)



Posn. 33, 38, 83, 88

April 1896 / 1899

Short foot on “P” (right)

Posn. 49 & Unk. Others

April 1896

Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

Light Ochre Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

1899

Bright Brown Ochre
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
(UV) Brownish Black

Light Ochre
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

Bright Orange Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

April 1896

Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red

Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red

Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Light Vermilion

Dark Pink (Red)
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Yellowish Orange

Dark Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Bright Ochre

www.germanstamps.net

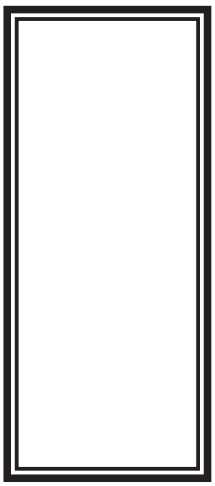
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“Deutsch-Ostafrika / Pesa” Overprint Issues

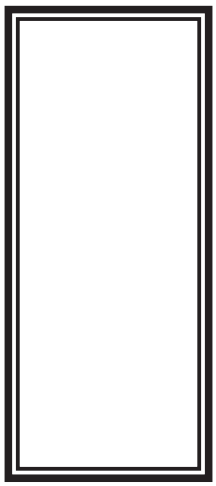
Gutter Pairs

April 1896 / 1899

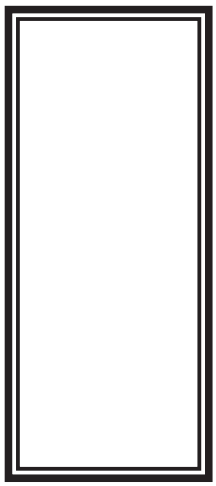
April 1896



Medium Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

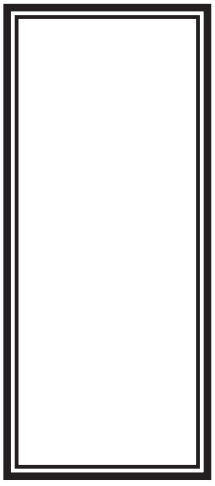


Light Ochre Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

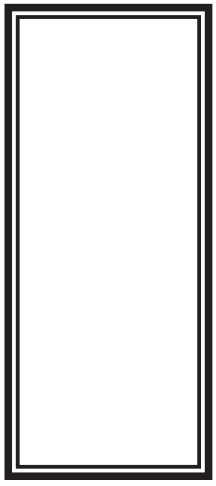


Bright Brown Ochre
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

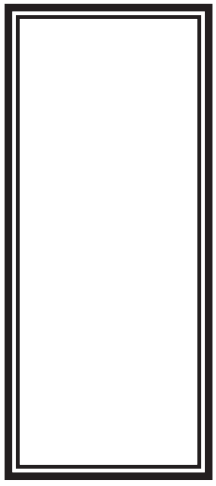
1899



Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig
(UV) Brownish Black

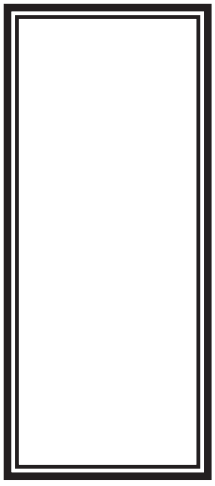


Light Ochre
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig



Bright Orange Brown
2 Pesa on 3 Pfennig

April 1896



(Bright) Opal Green
3 Pesa on 5 Pfennig

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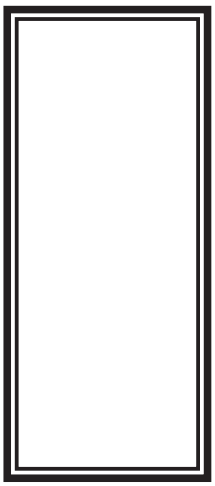
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

“Deutsch-Ostafrika / Pesa” Overprint Issues

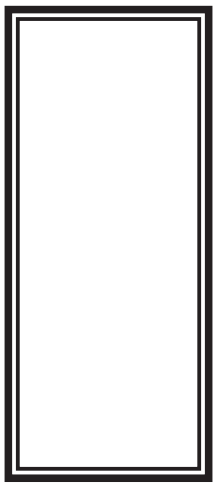
Gutter Pairs

April 1896 / 1899

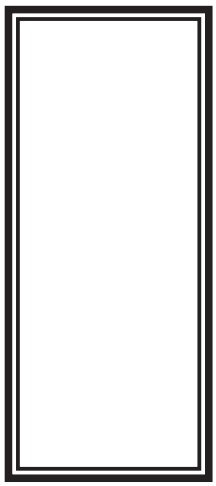
April 1896



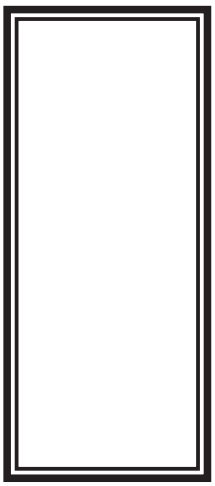
Bright Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Red



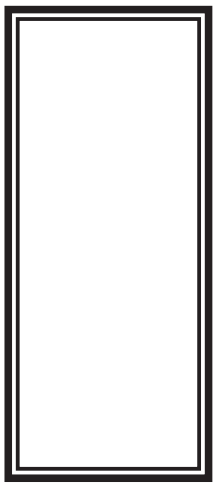
Red Carmine
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Dark Red



Lilac Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Light Vermilion

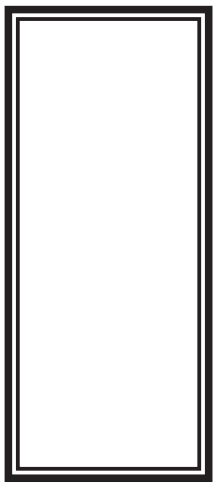


Dark Pink (Red)
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Yellowish Orange



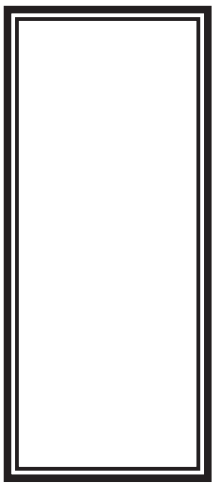
Dark Pink Red
5 Pesa on 10 Pfennig
(UV) Bright Ochre

April 1896



Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa on 20 Pfennig

April 1896



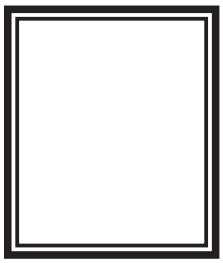
Bright Reddish Brown
25 Pesa on 50 Pfennig

www.germanstamps.net

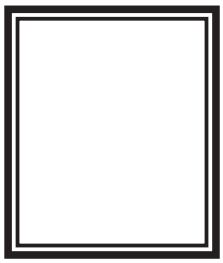
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

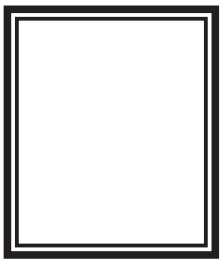
1 January 1901



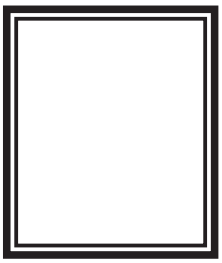
Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa



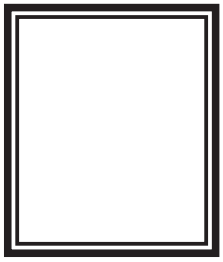
(Dark) Green
3 Pesa



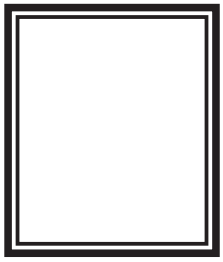
Dark Carmine Red
5 Pesa



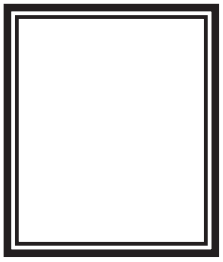
Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa



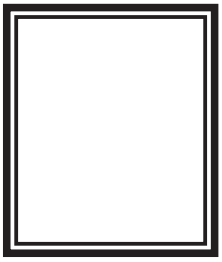
Reddish Orange / Red Black
on Dull Yellowish Orange
15 Pesa



(Dark Reddish)
Carmine / Black
20 Pesa



Dark Brownish Lilac / Red
Black on Dull Brown Orange
25 Pesa



Dark Reddish Carmine /
Red Black on Dull Carmine
40 Pesa

Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie

Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien

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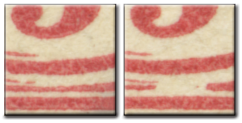
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Plate Flaws

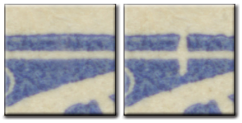
1 January 1901

Break below left value (right)



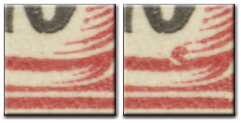
Posn. 84

Break in frame over “C” (right)



Posn. 9

Spot below right value (right)



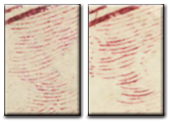
Posn. 27, 71

Dark Carmine Red
5 Pesa

Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa

(Dark Reddish) Carmine / Black
20 Pesa

Retouching in clouds (right)



Posn. 1

Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie

Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

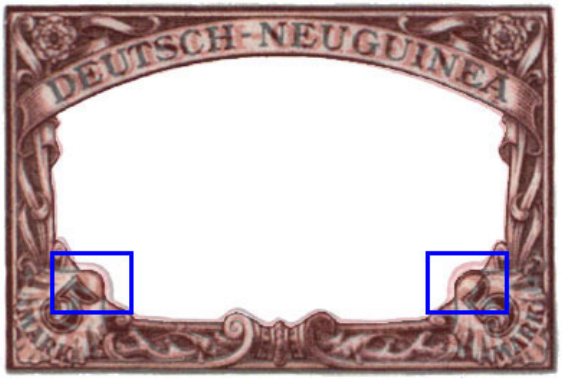
Yacht Issues

Printing Errors

1 January 1901

Type I Center with Type III Frame

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien



Type III frame (larger value areas) overlaid with Type I frame (smaller value areas)

Type III center (larger cutouts) overlaid with Type I center (smaller cutouts)

The center cliche for the yacht issues included cutouts at lower left and right to accommodate the portion of the frame with the value. Following the initial design, it became obvious that certain values required a larger value area in the frame, and therefore larger cutouts in the center cliche. There were occasionally mismatches in printing, however, such as these errors in which a Type I center (small cutouts) was printed with a Type III frame (larger value area). This particular error was first discovered in 1987.

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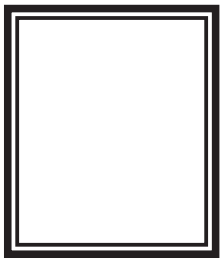
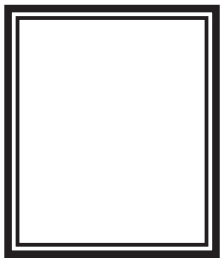
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issue Specimens

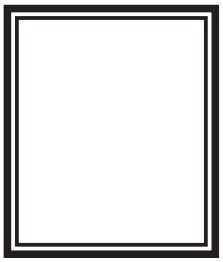
c. 1901



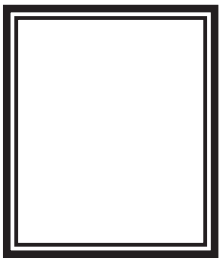
Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa



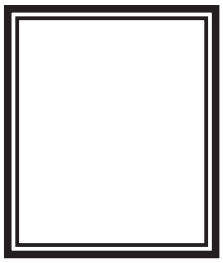
(Dark) Green
3 Pesa



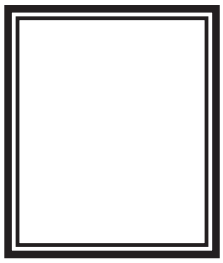
Dark Carmine Red
5 Pesa



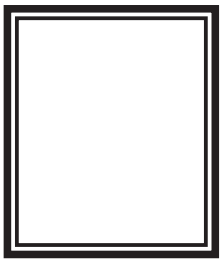
Violet Ultramarine
10 Pesa



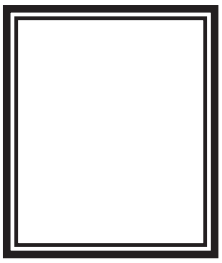
Reddish Orange / Red Black
on Dull Yellowish Orange
15 Pesa



(Dark Reddish)
Carmine / Black
20 Pesa



Dark Brownish Lilac / Red
Black on Dull Brown Orange
25 Pesa



Dark Reddish Carmine /
Red Black on Dull Carmine
40 Pesa

Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie

Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien

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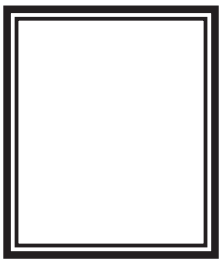
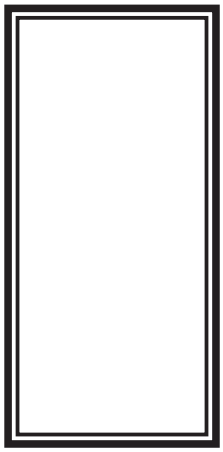
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issue Proofs

c. 1899 – 1900



Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa
Imperforate



Dark Ochre Brown
2 Pesa
Imperforate
Sheet row value counter in
Mark/Pfennig instead of Rupie/Pesa

Sheet Row Value Counters

Mark/Pfennig *Rupie/Pesa*

Prior to printing of the first Yacht Issues, a proof was produced of the 2 Pesa issue. The proof is in the same color as the issued version, but is imperforate. Additionally, top-margin copies show that the sheet row value counters on the proof sheets were denominated in Mark/Pfennig values consistent with a sheet of 3 Pfennig issues instead of the proper Rupie/Pesa values.

Watermark

Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie

Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien

Proof printings of the Rupie values of the first Yacht Issue were printed on paper with a lozenge watermark. The proofs can be very difficult to distinguish from the later 1908-1920 issues on the same watermarked paper, differing only slightly in color.

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issue Proofs

c. 1899 – 1900

Russian Green
2 Rupien

Dark Violet Slate / Dark Green
3 Rupien

Brown Red / Dark Green
3 Rupien

Brown Red / Dark Green
3 Rupien
Perf. Comb 14 ½

Dark Olive / Steel Blue
3 Rupien

Red Brown / Steel Blue
3 Rupien

Proof printings of the 2- & 3 Rupien values were printed in trial colors that vary from the colors of the eventual issues. Six varieties are known. Five of the six also vary from the issued stamps in perforation, being perforated Line 11 ½ instead of the issued Comb 14 ½. Additionally, the line perforated proofs are without gum, while the proof with comb perforation is with gum.

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

1 April 1905

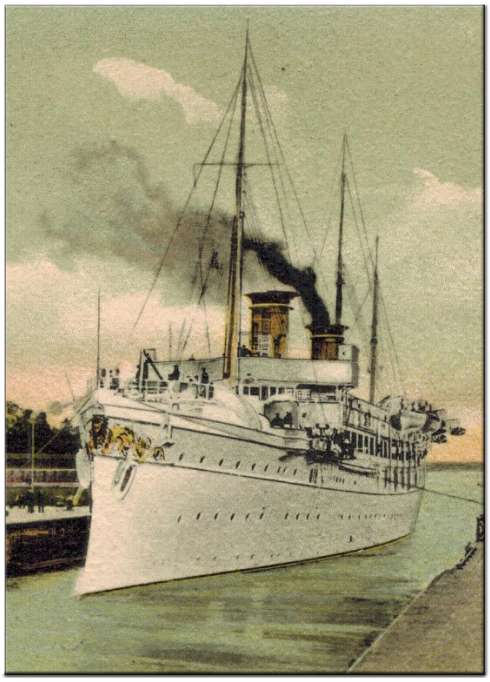
Bright Ochre Brown
2½ Heller

Blackish Green
4 Heller

Dark Gray Green
4 Heller

Green
4 Heller

Bright Red Carmine
7½ Heller



Kaiser Wilhelm II's yacht, *SMY Hohenzollern II*

Medium Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller

Dark Orange / Brown
Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller

Light Violet Ultramarine
15 Heller

(Red) Carmine /
Brown Black
30 Heller

Medium Brown
Violet / Black
45 Heller

Red Violet / Black
45 Heller

Dark Reddish Carmine /
Brown Black on Dull
Carmine Red
60 Heller

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

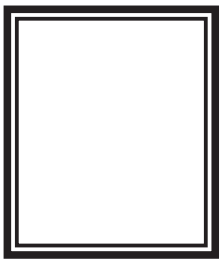
Yacht Issues

Plate Flaw

1 April 1905

Shorter lines in smoke (right)

Posn. 2, 3, 92, 97, &
Unk. Others



Dark Reddish Carmine / Brown
Black on Dull Carmine Red
60 Heller

Kaiser Wilhelm II's yacht, *SMY Hohenzollern II*

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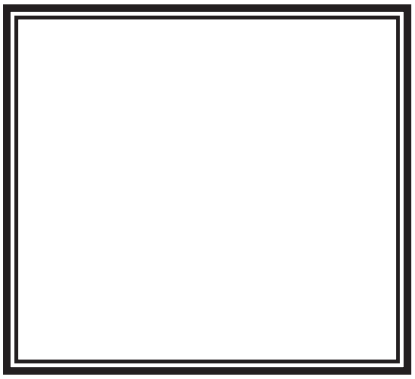
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

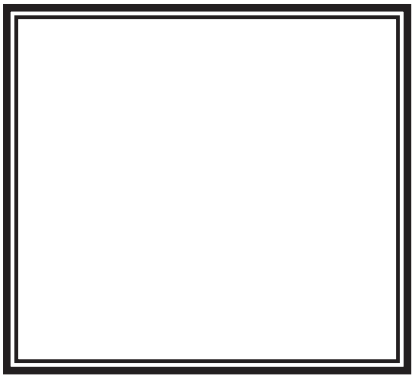
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

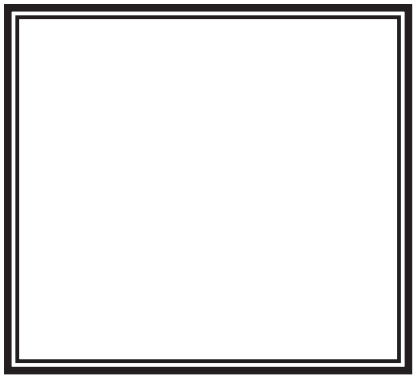
1 April 1905



Bright Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 4420 at bottom



Bright Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom



Bright Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 7693 at bottom

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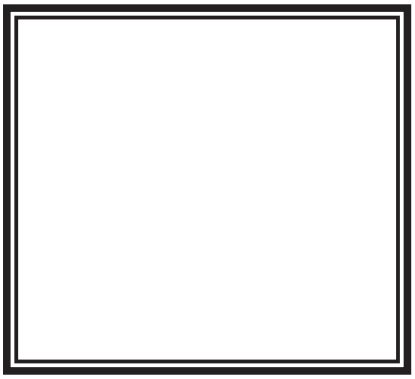
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

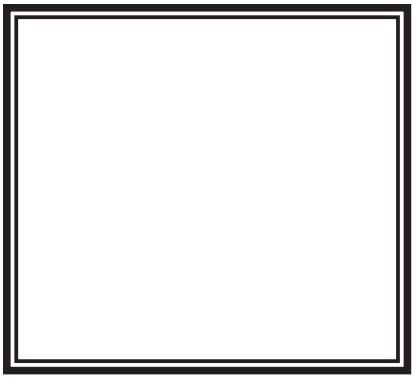
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

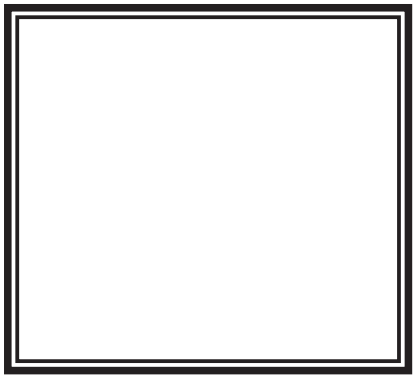
1 April 1905



Blackish Green
4 Heller
HAN H 3293 at bottom



Green
4 Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom



Green
4 Heller
HAN H 7693 at bottom

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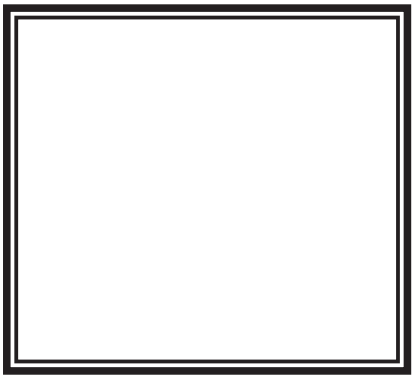
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

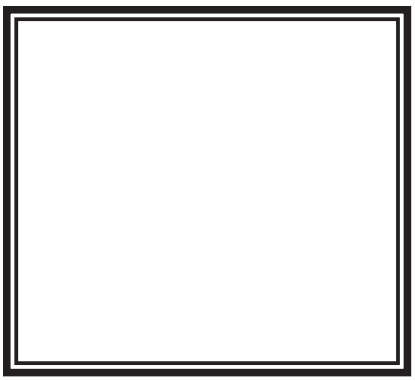
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

1 April 1905



Bright Red Carmine
7½ Heller
HAN H 3293 at bottom



Bright Red Carmine
7½ Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom

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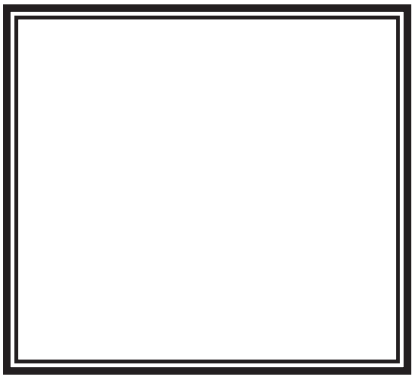
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

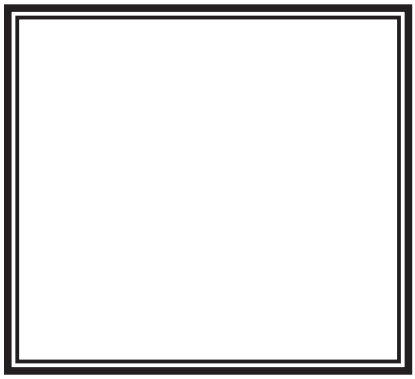
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

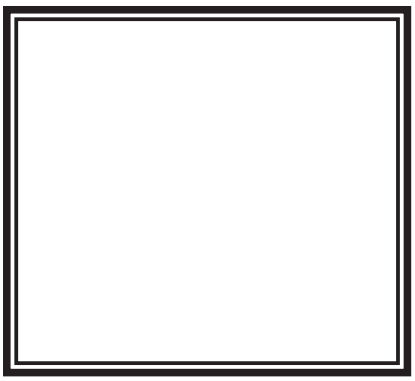
1 April 1905



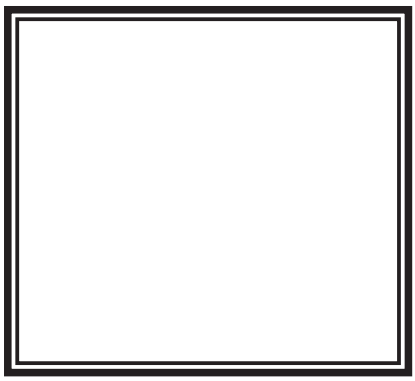
Medium Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom



Medium Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 6958 at bottom



Light Violet Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 3293 at bottom



Dark Orange / Brown Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN 6283 at bottom

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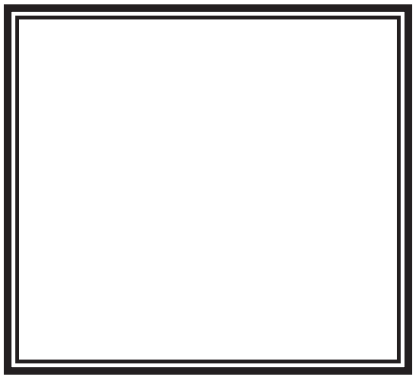
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

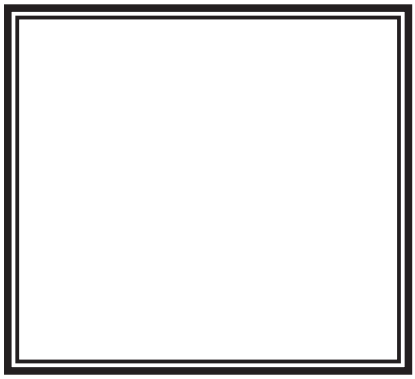
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

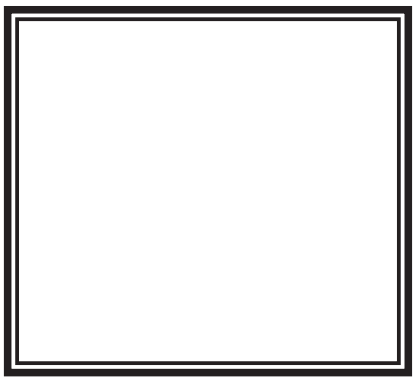
1 April 1905



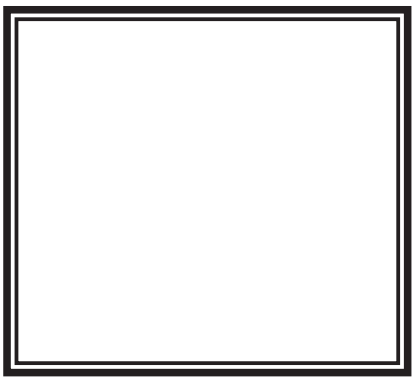
Dark Orange / Brown Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN H 3295 at bottom



Dark Orange / Brown Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom



Dark Orange / Brown Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN H 6958 at bottom



Dark Orange / Brown Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN H 7693 at bottom

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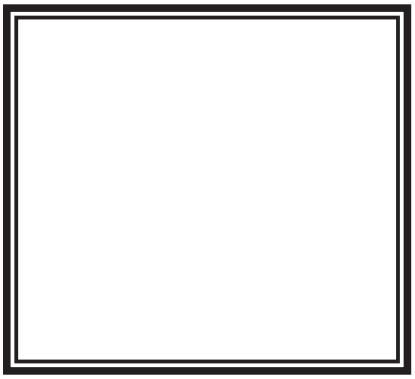
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

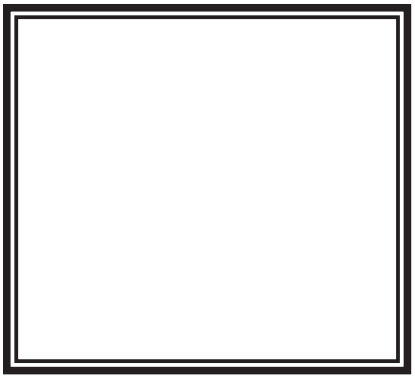
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

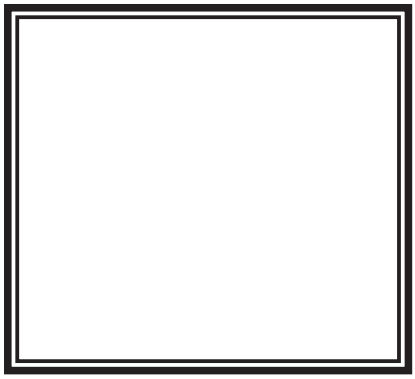
1 April 1905



(Red) Carmine / Brown Black
30 Heller
HAN H 7693 at bottom



(Red) Carmine / Brown Black
30 Heller
HAN H 3295 at bottom



(Red) Carmine / Brown Black
30 Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom

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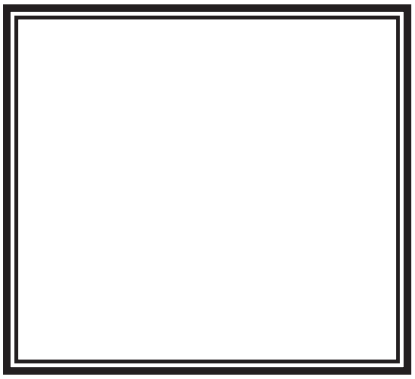
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

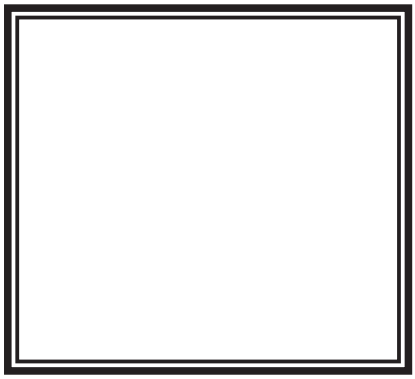
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

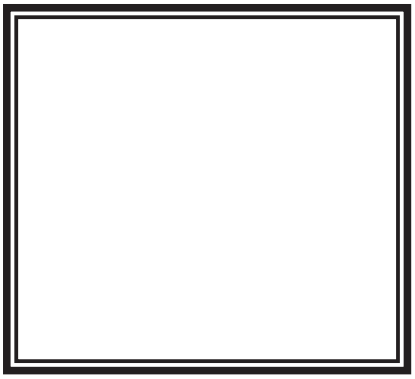
1 April 1905



Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller
HAN 3295 at bottom



Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom



Red Violet / Black
45 Heller
HAN H 429 at bottom

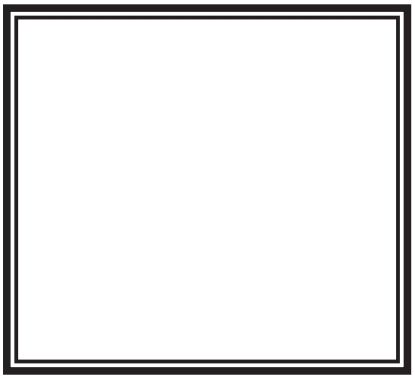
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

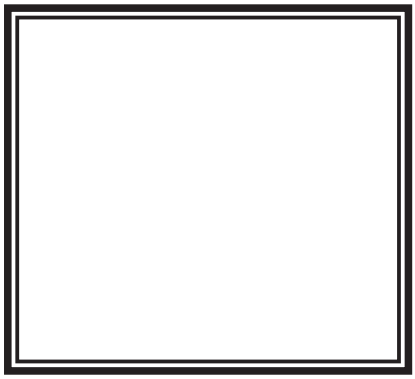
Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

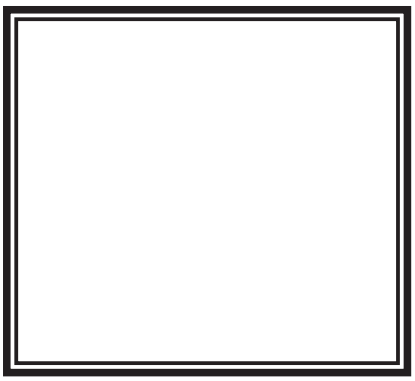
1 April 1905



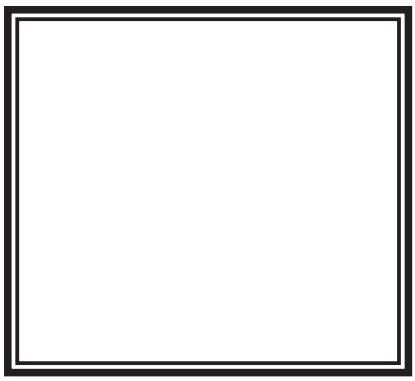
Dark Reddish Carmine / Brown Black on
Dull Carmine Red
60 Heller
HAN H 3295 at bottom



Dark Reddish Carmine / Brown Black on
Dull Carmine Red
60 Heller
HAN H 6283 at bottom



Dark Reddish Carmine / Brown Black on
Dull Carmine Red
60 Heller
HAN H 6958 at bottom



Dark Reddish Carmine / Brown Black on
Dull Carmine Red
60 Heller
HAN H 429 at bottom

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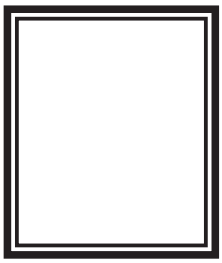
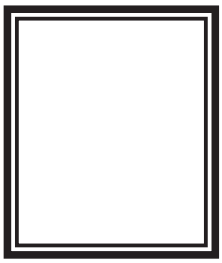
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

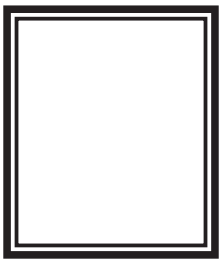
Yacht Issue Watermarked Proofs

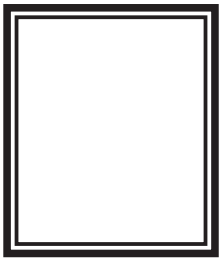
c. 1905

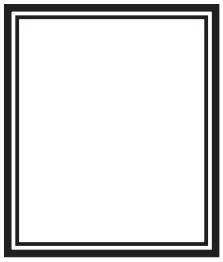
Watermark

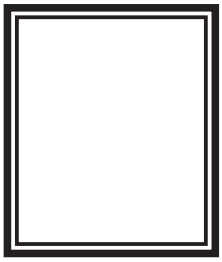

Bright Ochre Brown
2½ Heller

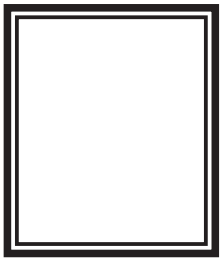

Green
4 Heller

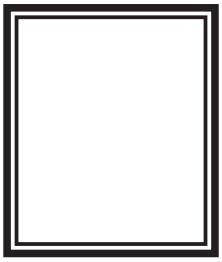

Bright Red Carmine
7½ Heller


Violet Ultramarine
15 Heller


Dark Orange / Brown
Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller


(Red) Carmine /
Brown Black
30 Heller


Medium Brown
Violet / Black
45 Heller


Dark Reddish Carmine / Brown
Black on Dull Carmine Red
60 Heller

Proof printings of the Heller-valued Yacht Issues were printed on paper with a lozenge watermark. The proofs can be very difficult to distinguish from the subsequent 1906/1919 issues on the same watermarked paper, differing only slightly in color.

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issue Proofs

c. 1904 – 1905

Brownish Red / Black
20 Heller

Gray Blue / Brown Black
45 Heller

Light Bluish Green / Brown Black
45 Heller

Dark Olive / Brown Black
45 Heller

Carmine / Black
60 Heller

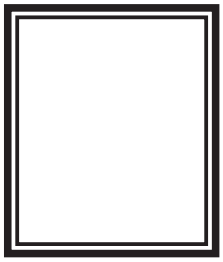
Proof printings of the 20-, 45-, and 60 Heller values of the unwatermarked Yacht Issues were printed in several trial colors. The proofs can be distinguished not only by the colors, but by the addition of a dot before and/or after "DEUTSCH-OSTAFRIKA", in the same trial color as the frame. The paper is also the standard white instead of the yellow (20 Heller) or red (60 Heller) that were used for the issued stamps.

www.germanstamps.net

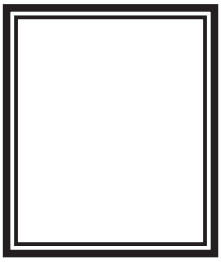
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issue Specimens

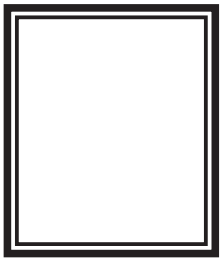
c. 1905



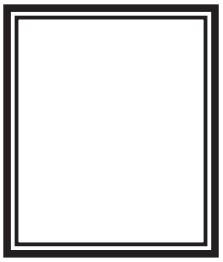
Bright Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller



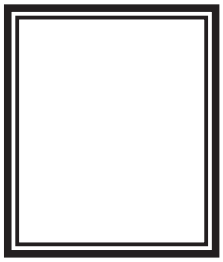
Green
4 Heller



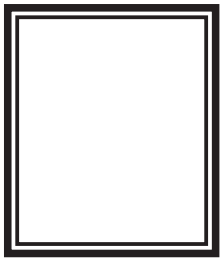
Bright Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller



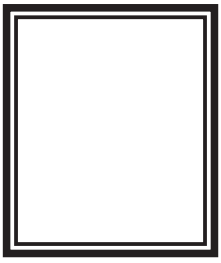
Violet Ultramarine
15 Heller



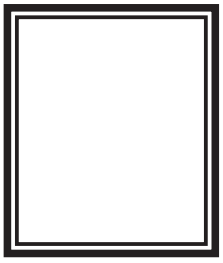
Dark Orange / Brown
Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller



(Red) Carmine /
Brown Black
30 Heller



Medium Brown
Violet / Black
45 Heller



Dark Reddish Carmine / Brown
Black on Dull Carmine Red
60 Heller

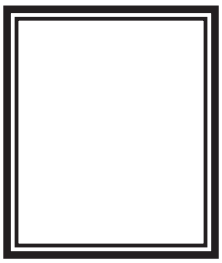
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

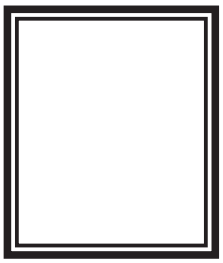
Yacht Issues

Watermark

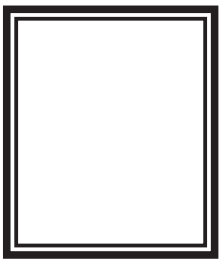
Peace Printing
1906


(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller

War Printing
1919

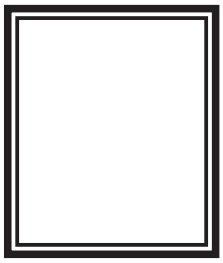

Dark Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller

Peace Printing
1906

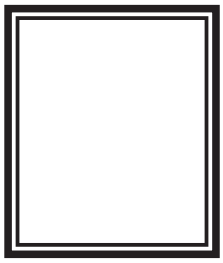

Dark Green
4 Heller

Peace Printing

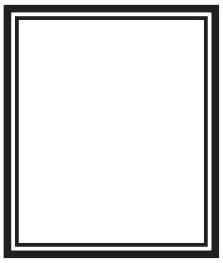
1906


Bright Carmine Red
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Lilac Brown

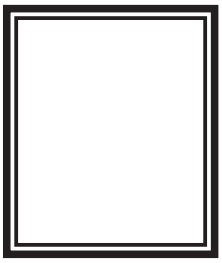
1906


Bright to Dark Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Red

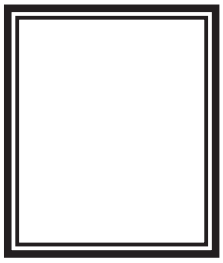
1906


Bright Violet Ultramarine
15 Heller

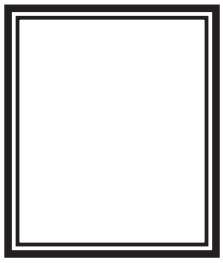
1908


(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller

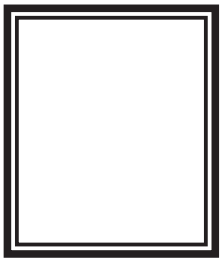
1911


Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller

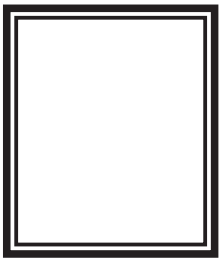
1909


Dark Reddish Carmine /
(Brown) Black
30 Heller

1906


Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller

1906


Dark Reddish Carmine /
Black on Dull Rose Red
60 Heller

The War Printings of these issues are of lower print quality, typically with blurred printing, drab colors, rough paper, unclear watermark, and glossier gum than the earlier Peace Printings.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Watermark

Peace Printing — 1915 — 1915

Dark Brownish Red
1 Rupie
26:17 Perforation

Dark Carmine Red
1 Rupie
26:17 Perforation

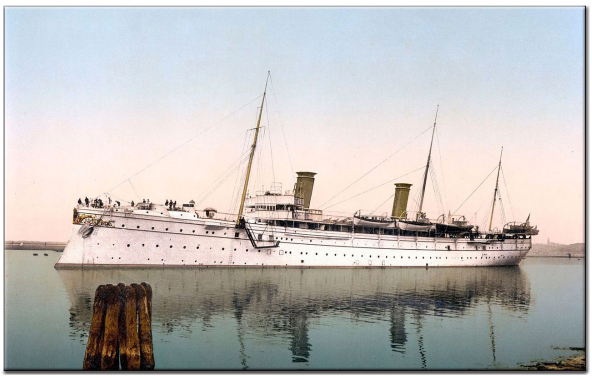
War Printing — 1919 — 1915

Dark Red
1 Rupie
26:17 Perforation

Dark Red
1 Rupie
25:17 Perforation

1920

Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien
25:17 Perforation



Kaiser Wilhelm II's yacht, *SMY Hohenzollern II*

The War Printings of these issues are of lower print quality, typically with blurred printing, drab colors, rough paper, unclear watermark, and glossier gum than the earlier Peace Printings.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Watermark

Peace Printing
1908

Dark Carmine Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III
(UV) Yellowish Red Frame

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

War Printing
1919

Blackish Red Carmine / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

Blackish Carmine Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
25:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

Blackish Carmine Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type II

Blackish Red Carmine / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type II

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
25:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type II

The War Printings of these issues are of lower print quality, typically with blurred printing, drab colors, rough paper, unclear watermark, and glossier gum than the earlier Peace Printings.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

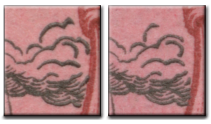
Yacht Issues

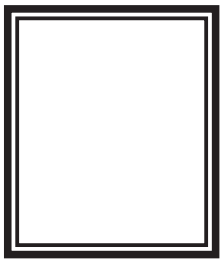
Plate Flaws

Watermark

1906

Shorter lines in smoke (right)

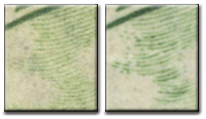

Posn. 2, 3, 92, 97, &
Unk. Others


Dark Reddish Carmine /
Black on Dull Rose Red
60 Heller

1920

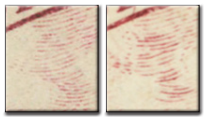
Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien
25:17 Perforation

Retouching in clouds (right)


Posn. 1

Peace Printing — 1915 — 1915

Retouching in clouds (right)


Posn. 1

Dark Brownish Red
1 Rupie
26:17 Perforation

Dark Carmine Red
1 Rupie
26:17 Perforation

War Printing — 1919 — 1915

Dark Red
1 Rupie
26:17 Perforation

Dark Red
1 Rupie
25:17 Perforation

The War Printings of these issues are of lower print quality, typically with blurred printing, drab colors, rough paper, unclear watermark, and glossier gum than the earlier Peace Printings.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

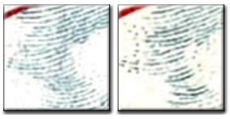
Yacht Issues

Plate Flaws

Watermark

Peace Printing
1908

Retouching in clouds (right)


Posn. 1

Dark Carmine Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

Dark Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

War Printing
1919

Blackish Red Carmine / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

Blackish Carmine Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
26:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

Red / Green Black
3 Rupien
25:17 Perforation
Frame Type III, Center Type III

The War Printings of these issues are of lower print quality, typically with blurred printing, drab colors, rough paper, unclear watermark, and glossier gum than the earlier Peace Printings.

www.germanstamps.net

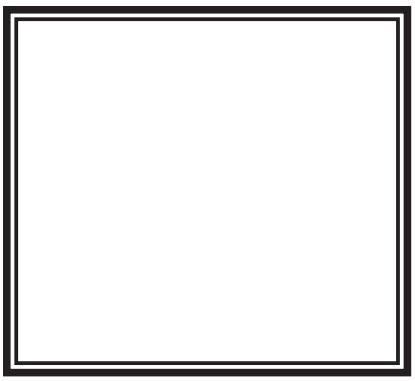
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

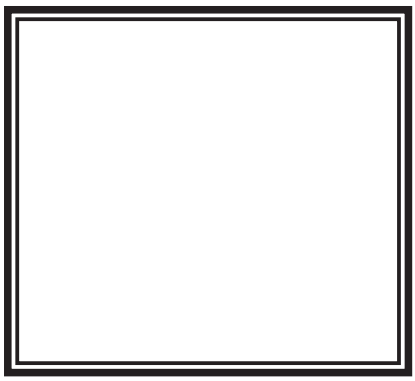
Watermark

Peace Printing
1906



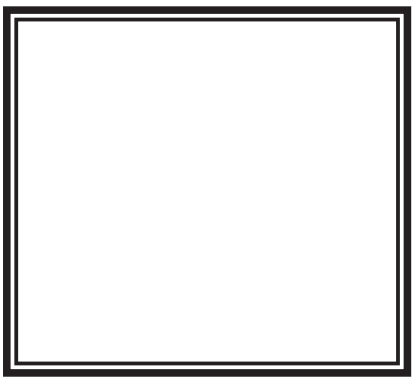
(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 4673 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



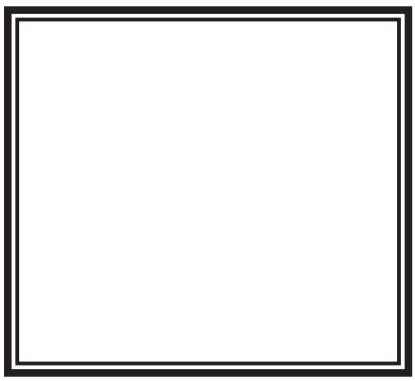
(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 6927 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 3072.11 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 7096 at bottom

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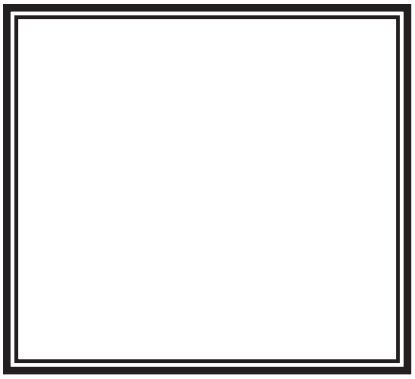
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

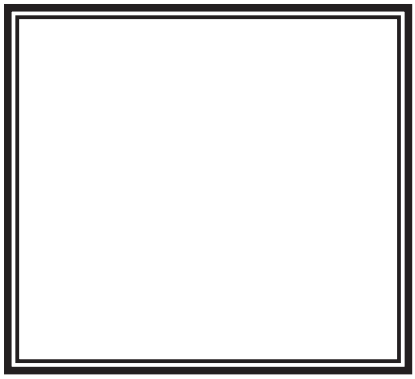
Watermark

Peace Printing
1906



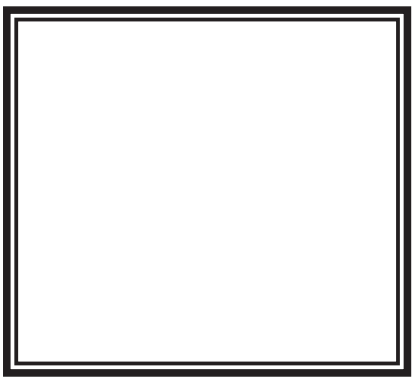
(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 1041.09 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



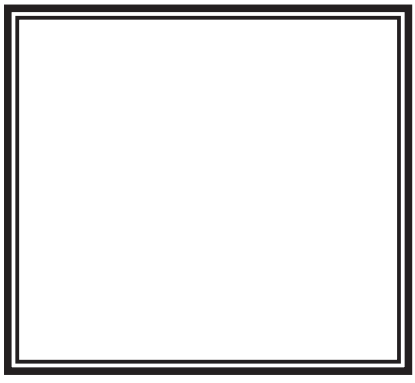
(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 4596.13 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 7863 at bottom

War Printing
1919



Dark Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller
HAN H 2319.19 at bottom

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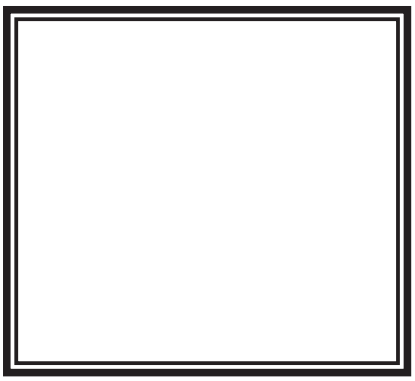
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

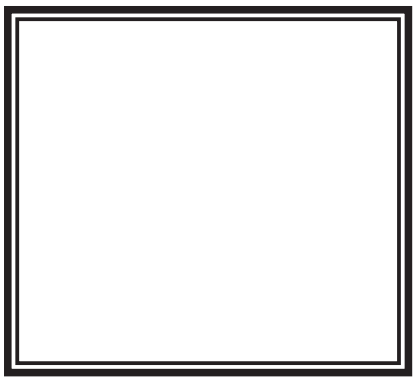
Watermark

Peace Printing
1906



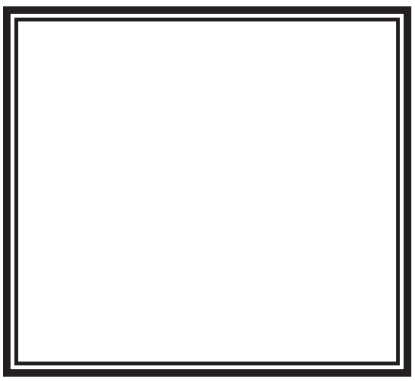
Dark Green
4 Heller
HAN H 4673 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



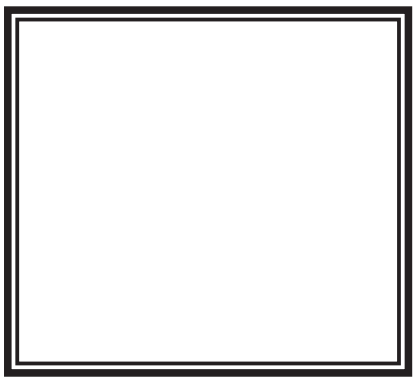
Dark Green
4 Heller
HAN H 7096 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Dark Green
4 Heller
HAN H 1041.09 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Dark Green
4 Heller
HAN H 2031.10 at bottom

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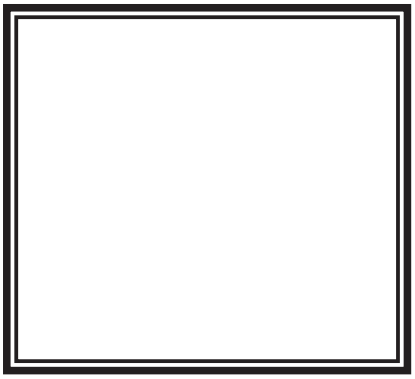
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

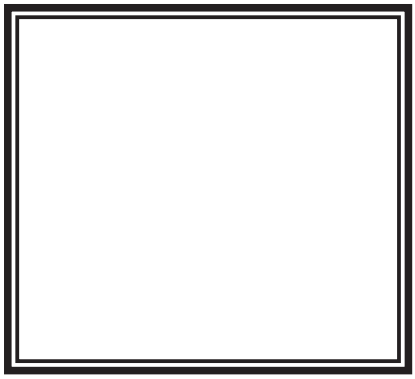
Watermark

Peace Printing
1906



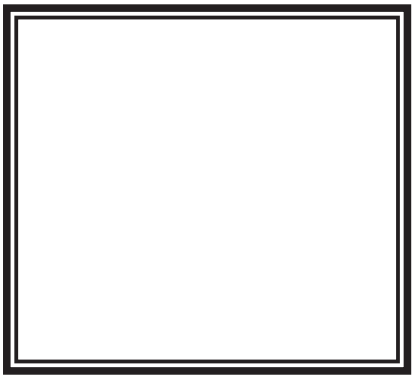
Dark Green
4 Heller
HAN H 2565.12 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



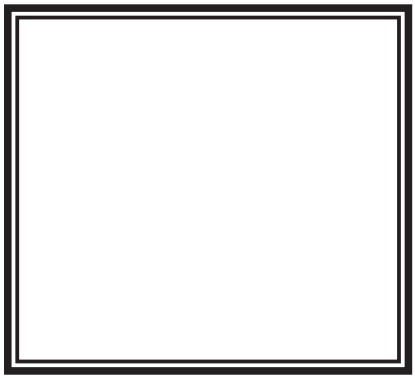
Dark Green
4 Heller
HAN H 4596.13 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Bright Carmine Red
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Lilac Brown
HAN H 4673 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Bright Carmine Red
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Lilac Brown
HAN H 7096 at bottom

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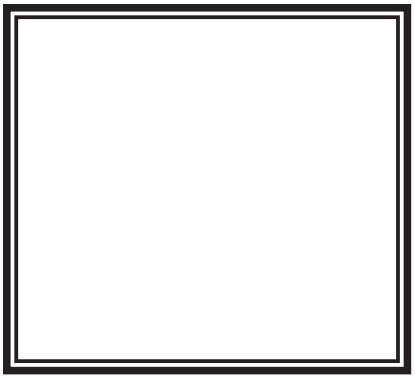
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

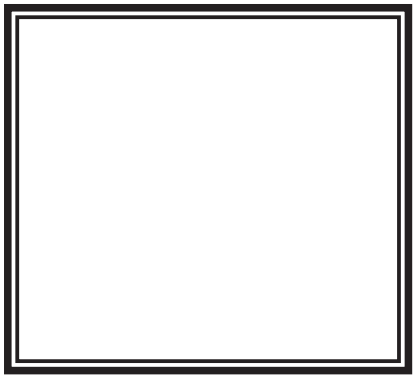
Watermark

Peace Printing
1906



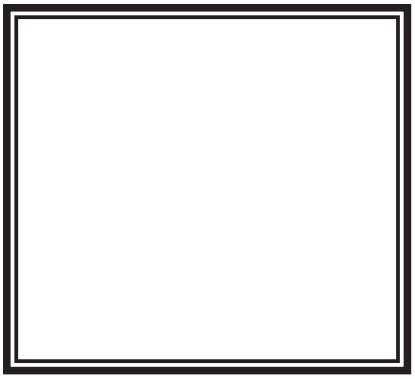
Bright Carmine Red
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Lilac Brown
HAN H 1041.09 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



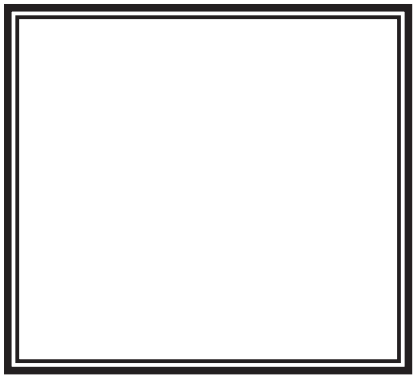
Bright Carmine Red
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Lilac Brown
HAN H 2031.10 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Bright Carmine Red
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Lilac Brown
HAN H 3072.11 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Bright Carmine Red
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Lilac Brown
HAN H 3521 at bottom

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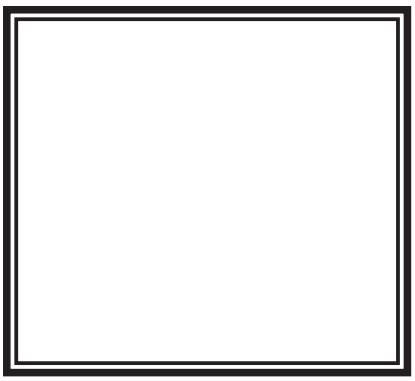
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

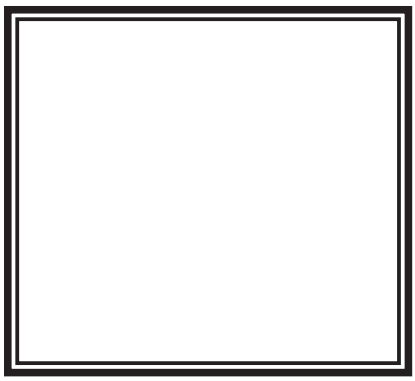
Watermark

Peace Printing
1906



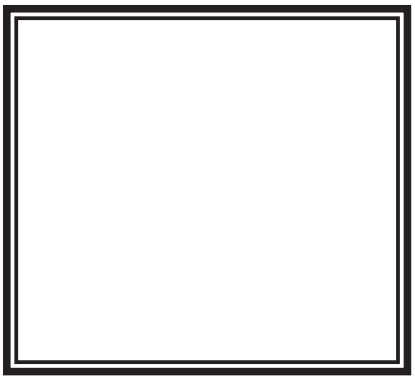
Bright to Dark Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Red
HAN H 2565.12 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



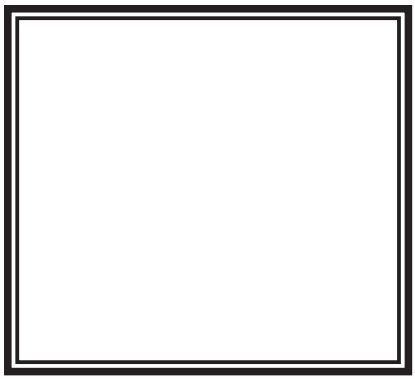
Bright to Dark Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Red
HAN H 4596.13 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Bright Violet Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 4673 at bottom

Peace Printing
1908



(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 6927 at bottom

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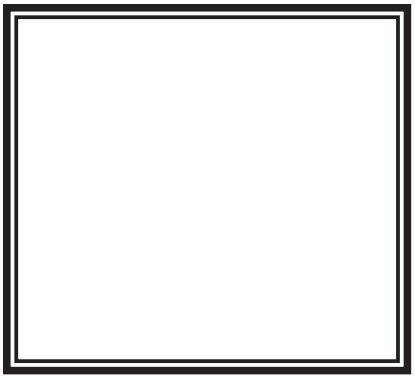
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

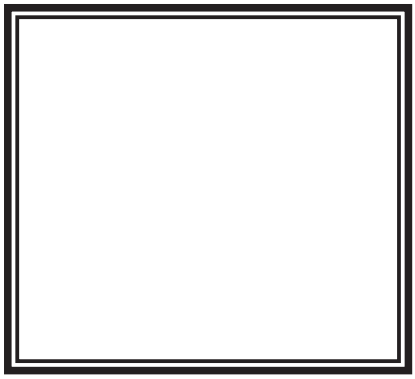
Watermark

Peace Printing
1908



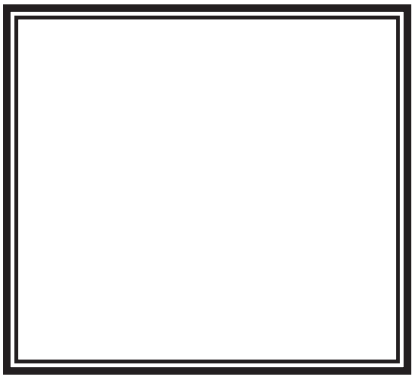
(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 2031.10 at bottom

Peace Printing
1908



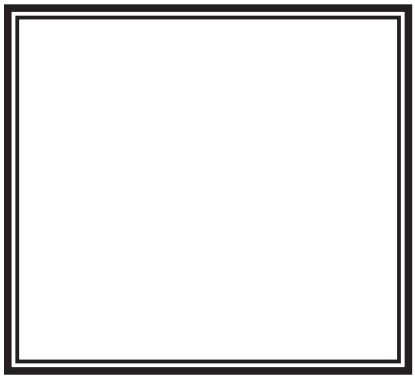
(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 3072.11 at bottom

Peace Printing
1908



(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 2565.12 at bottom

Peace Printing
1908



(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller
HAN H 4596.13 at bottom

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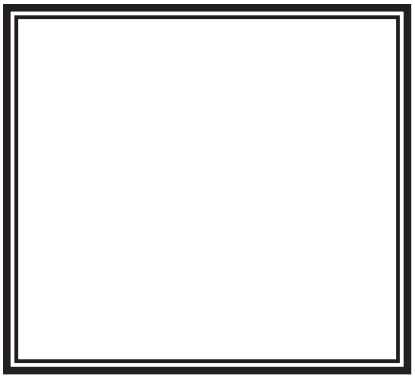
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

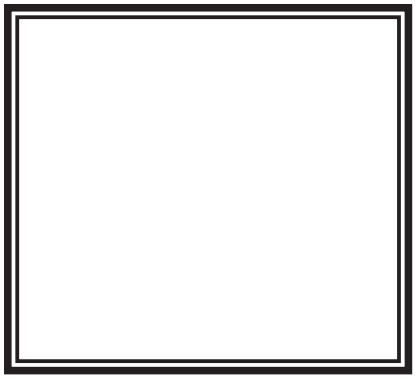
Watermark

Peace Printing
1911



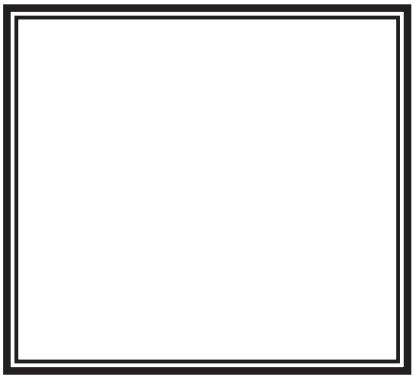
Dark (Reddish) Orange / Yellow
Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN H 4672 at bottom

Peace Printing
1911



Dark (Reddish) Orange / Yellow
Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN H 2031.10 at bottom

Peace Printing
1911



Dark (Reddish) Orange / Yellow
Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
HAN H 4596.13 at bottom

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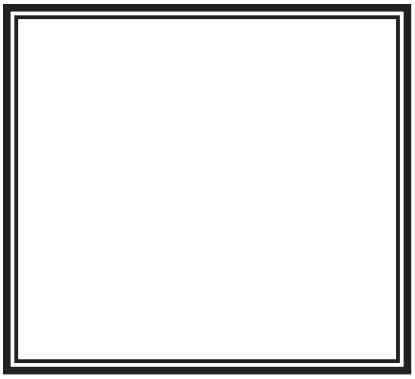
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

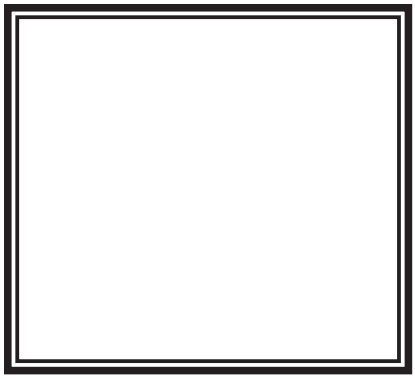
Watermark

Peace Printing
1909



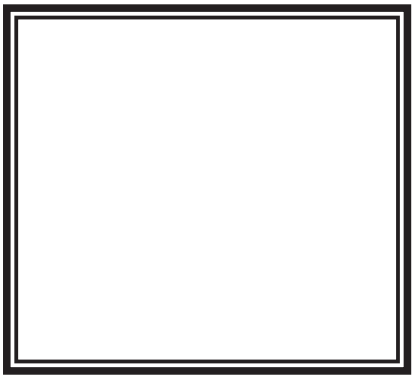
Dark Reddish Carmine / (Brown) Black
30 Heller
HAN H 2031.10 at bottom

Peace Printing
1909



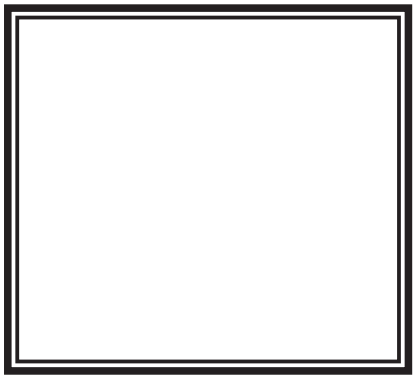
Dark Reddish Carmine / (Brown) Black
30 Heller
HAN H 2566.12 at bottom

Peace Printing
1909



Dark Reddish Carmine / (Brown) Black
30 Heller
HAN H 4596.13 at bottom

Peace Printing
1909



Dark Reddish Carmine / (Brown) Black
30 Heller
HAN H 4672 at bottom

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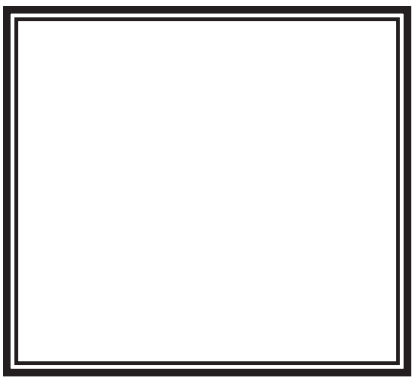
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Yacht Issues

Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

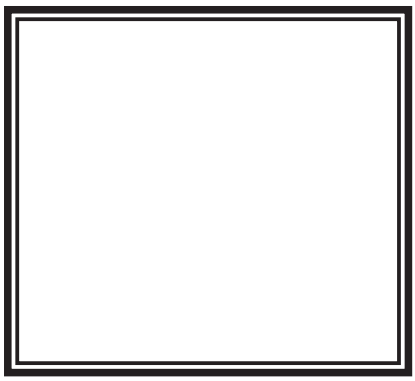
Watermark

Peace Printing
1906



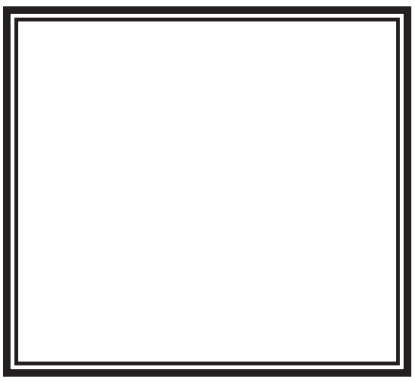
Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller
HAN H 4672 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



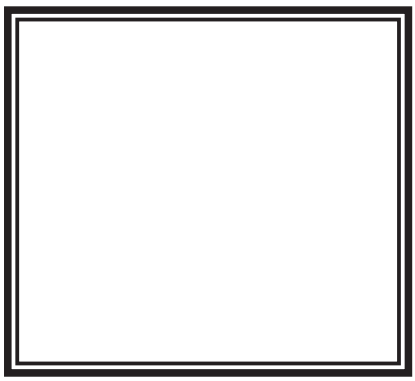
Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller
HAN H 2031.10 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Medium Brown Violet / Black
45 Heller
HAN H 4596.13 at bottom

Peace Printing
1906



Dark Reddish Carmine / Black on Dull Rose Red
60 Heller
HAN H 4672 at bottom

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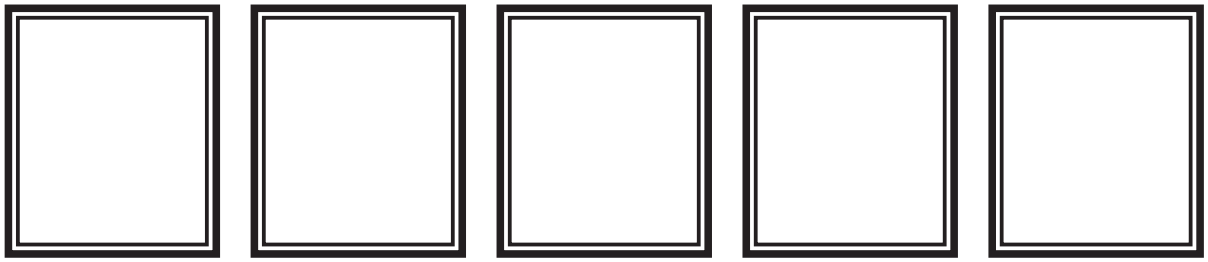
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Imperforate Yacht Issues

c. 1906 – 1909

Watermark



(Bright) Ochre Brown
2 ½ Heller

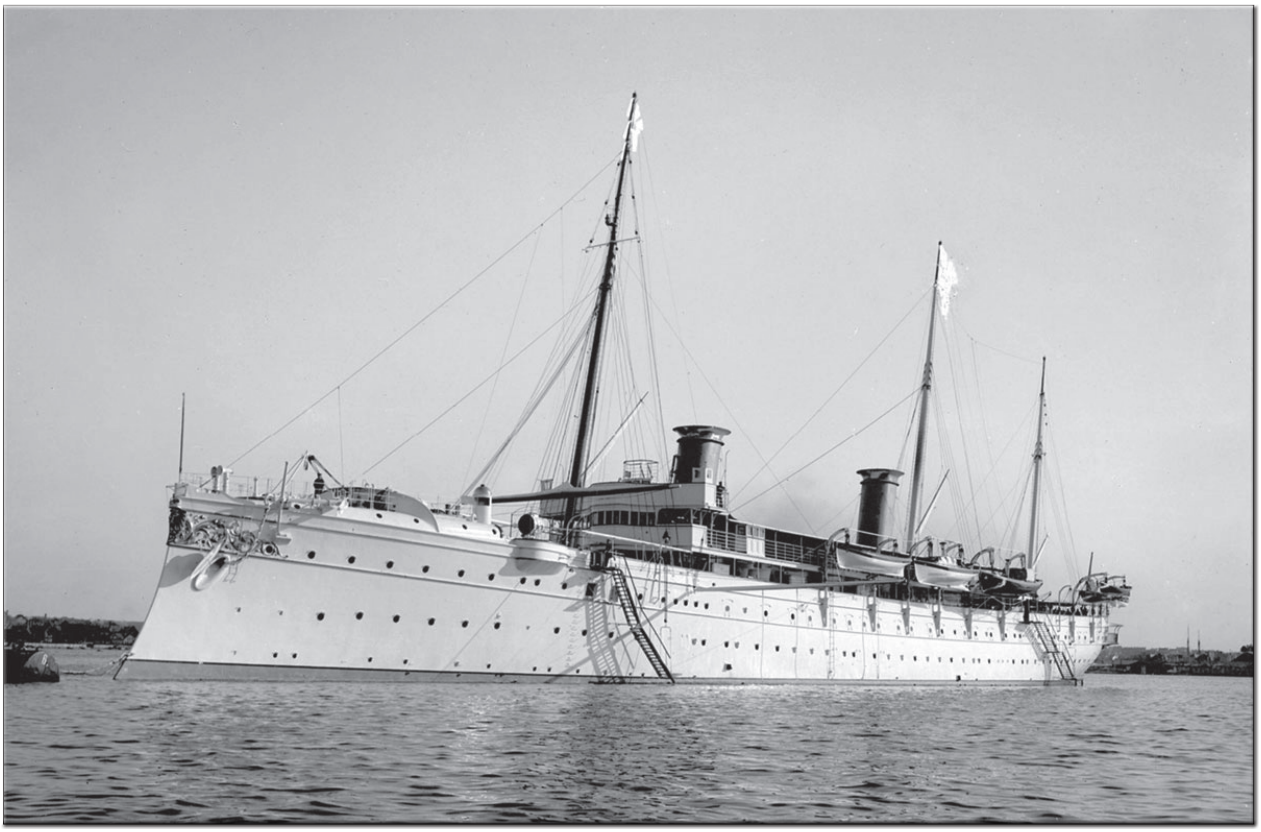
Dark Green
4 Heller

(Bright) Lilac
Ultramarine
15 Heller

Dark Reddish Carmine
/ (Brown) Black
30 Heller

Medium Brown
Violet / Black
45 Heller

Upon the issuance of the 1905 / 1920 watermarked Yacht Issues, imperforate sheets were printed of several of the values for the archive of the Reichsdruckerei (Reich Printing Works). On the 2 ½ Heller and 4 Heller sheets, a "Wertlos" (Worthless) overprint was applied to each stamp. The sheets remained in the archive until 1997, when they were released for public auction.



Kaiser Wilhelm II's yacht, *SMY Hohenzollern II*

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Schülke & Mayr Private Postal Service

1892

In 1891, the government of German East Africa contracted with Schülke & Mayr, a German medical company doing business in German East Africa, to provide mail service along a route from Dar-es-Salaam to Muansa and Bukoba on Lake Victoria. In 1892, this set was produced for use with this service.

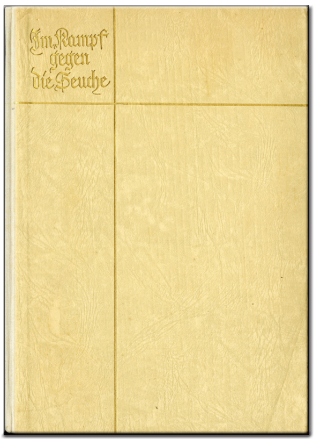
Due to difficulties with the service, the contract was not renewed the following year, and the stamps were never issued for use.

Red 5 Cents	Orange 10 Cents	Blue 25 Cents	Green 50 Cents	Brown 1 Dollar

1939 Reprints

In 1939, the Schülke & Mayr set was reprinted (3,000 sets) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Schülke & Mayr Company. The reprints were printed in the original colors, but lack the burelage of the originals and feature a different perforation (10 ¾ instead of the original 11 ½).

They can be found at Page 85 of the commemorative book, *Im Kampf gegen die Seuche* (In the Fight Against Disease).



Im Kampf gegen die Seuche

Red 5 Cents	Orange 10 Cents	Blue 25 Cents	Green 50 Cents	Brown 1 Dollar

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Schülke & Mayr Private Postal Service

Partially Imperforate Variety

1892

Green
50 Cents
Imperforate at bottom

Contemporary sketch of Schülke & Mayr postal carriers on the 1891 German postal expedition from Dar-es-Salaam to Bukoba

www.germanstamps.net

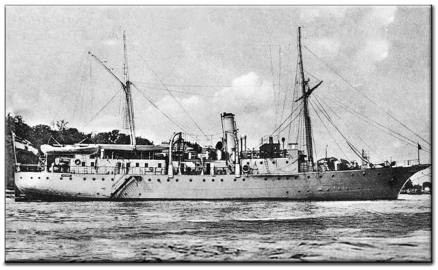
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Königsberg / *Möwe* Provisionals

Watermark

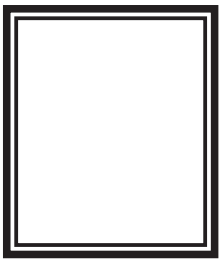
20 December 1915

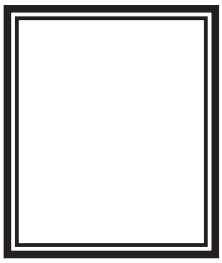
Upon the outbreak of World War I, British naval forces initiated a blockade of German East Africa. On 20 September 1914, the German survey ship *SMS Möwe* was scuttled in Dar-es-Salaam to avoid being captured or sunk by the British. The German cruiser *SMS Königsberg* retreated to the Rufiji Delta, where she was inaccessible to British forces. Following extensive efforts by the British to sink her, she was scuttled by her crew on 11 July 1915.

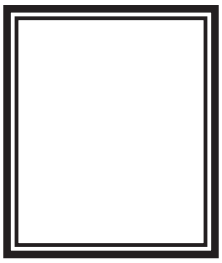

SMS Möwe

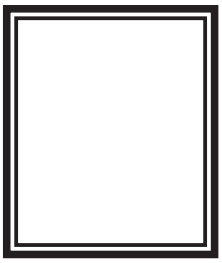
As a result of the British blockade, post offices in German East Africa ran short of postage stamps. In an effort to remedy the situation, German postage was salvaged from the scuttled ships and distributed to local post offices. These provisional issues can be distinguished only by their German East Africa cancels.

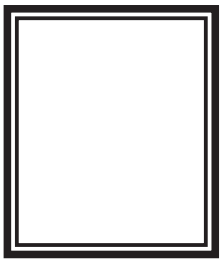
Only one copy of the 1 Mark value has ever been found. It was canceled at Mombo on 4 January 1916. It has not been seen since WWII, and is believed to have been lost or destroyed during the war.


(Dark) Ochre Brown
3 Pfennig used as
2 ½ Heller


(Dark) Green
5 Pfennig used as
4 Heller


Dark Red Carmine
10 Pfennig used as
7 ½ Heller


(Dark) Lilac Ultramarine
20 Pfennig used as
15 Heller


Dark Grey Lilac &
Black on Medium
Chrome Yellow
50 Pfennig used as
37 ½ Heller

Orig. Value	New Value	*Königsberg* Quantity	*Möwe* Quantity	Total Quantity
3 Pf	2 1/2 H	900	499	1,399
5 Pf	4 H	7,416	1,858	9,274
10 Pf	7 1/2 H	2,906	700	3,606
20 Pf	15 H	392	357	749
50 Pf	37 1/2 H	178	110	288
1 M	75 H	40	-	40

	3 Pf	5 Pf	10 Pf	20 Pf	50 Pf	1 M
Bagamojo	200	2,000	500	200	30	-
Bukoba	200	1,000	300	100	50	10
Dodoma	100	1,000	300	50	10	-
Kilwa	100	500	200	20	10	-
Korogwe	99	774	606	59	48	-
Mohoro	100	500	200	20	10	-
Mombo	500	3,000	1,000	200	100	30
Pangani	100	500	500	100	30	-

SMS Königsberg

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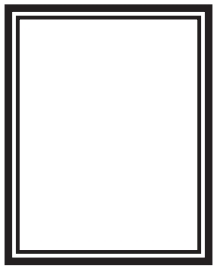
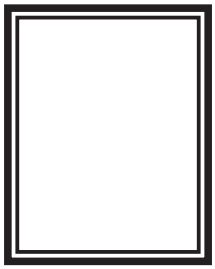
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Wuga Provisionals

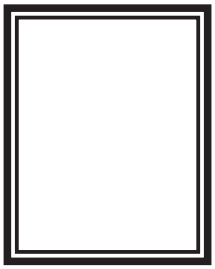
March 1916



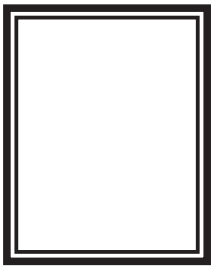
Blackish-Brown
Type I Typeface
2½ Heller



Blackish-Brown
Type II Typeface
2½ Heller



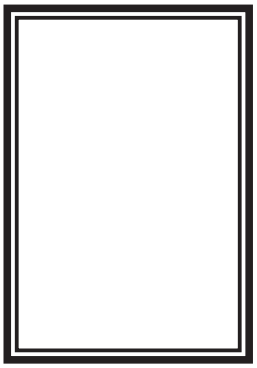
Red
Type I Typeface
7½ Heller



Red
Type II Typeface
7½ Heller

By late 1915, the British blockade of German East Africa had led to a shortage of postage. In January 1916, designs were produced for an emergency issue of stamps which consisted of 4 different designs, (1) for 2½ and 7½ Heller, (2) for 4 Heller, (3) for 15, 20, 30, 45 and 60 Heller, and (4) for 1, 2, and 3 Rupie. In the end, the first and last designs were the only proposed designs which were actually printed.

In March 1916, the 2½ Heller, 7½ Heller, and 1 Rupie designs were printed on the printing press at the Mission Station in Wuga. The paper was ungummed and rouletted. The printer had insufficient supply of both "2" and "7" slugs, so a mixture of typefaces was used -- each sheet of 100 contained 60 Type I typefaces and 40 Type II typefaces, arranged as shown.



Gray-Red
1 Rupie

Prior to their issue, however, the blockade runner *Marie* arrived in German East Africa carrying a new supply of stamps. To prevent the Wuga issues from falling into British hands, the entire stock was buried on an estate near Morogoro, with the exception of several copies which were retained by individuals in German East Africa in contravention of Berlin's directive.

I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II

Sheet Layout of Types I & II

In August 1921, the British allowed the Germans to return and retrieve the buried stamps. Several parties to the excavation kept unauthorized copies as souvenirs, but the surviving copies were sent to Berlin for resale. Many were in such poor condition that they were destroyed by German authorities, but the remainder were split into singles and se-tenants and sold at auction. Many blocks of larger than 2 exist, and are believed to come from the unauthorized pilferage at excavation.

	2½ H	7½ H	1 R
Printed	106,600	313,000	10,580
Sold	9,919	18,910	470

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Wuga Provisional

Plate Flaw

March 1916

Exclamation point behind "I" in "RUPIE"
Posn. Unk.

Gray-Red
1 Rupie

Wuga mission station

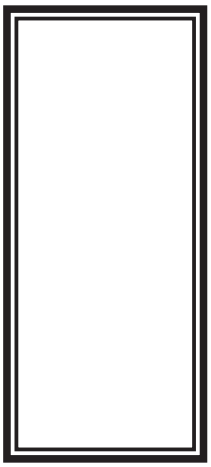
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Wuga Provisionals

March 1916

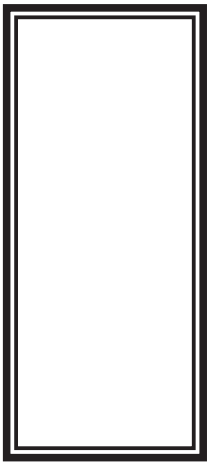
Types I & II Horizontal Se-tenant



Types I & II Vertical Se-tenant

Types II & I Horizontal Se-tenant

Types I & II Horizontal Se-tenant



Types I & II Vertical Se-tenant

Types II & I Horizontal Se-tenant

Due to the layout of the sheets, the number of possible se-tenants per sheet is varied. Each sheet could contain a maximum of 48 horizontal se-tenants of Type I/II, 40 horizontal se-tenants of Type II/I, 5 vertical se-tenants of Type I/II, or a mixture containing lesser numbers of each. The distribution of se-tenants was also limited by which portions of the sheets were salvaged with minimal environmental damage.

Wuga mission station printing press

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

British Occupation of Mafia Island

Watermark

"G. R. / MAFIA" Overprints

14 January 1915

Black Overprint

(Bright) Ochre Brown
2½ Heller

Dark Green
4 Heller

Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
7½ Heller

(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller

Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller

Dark Reddish Carmine /
(Brown) Black
30 Heller

Red Violet / Black
45 Heller

Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie
No Watermark

Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien
No Watermark

Dark (Carmine) Red / Green Black
3 Rupien

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The first issues were overprinted "G. R. / MAFIA", and they can be found with black or blackish-violet ink.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

British Occupation of Mafia Island

"G. R. / MAFIA" Overprints

Watermark

14 January 1915

Blackish-Violet Overprint

(Bright) Ochre Brown
2½ Heller

Dark Green
4 Heller

Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
7½ Heller

(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
15 Heller

Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller

Dark Reddish Carmine /
(Brown) Black
30 Heller

Red Violet / Black
45 Heller

Dark Lilac Red
1 Rupie
No Watermark

Dark Emerald Green
2 Rupien
No Watermark

Dark (Carmine) Red / Green Black
3 Rupien

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The first issues were overprinted "G. R. / MAFIA", and they can be found with black or blackish-violet ink.

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

British Occupation of Mafia Island

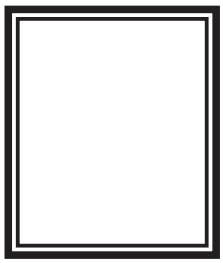
Watermark

"G. R. / MAFIA" Overprints

Overprint Flaws

Black Overprint

14 January 1915



Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
20 Heller
Double overprint

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

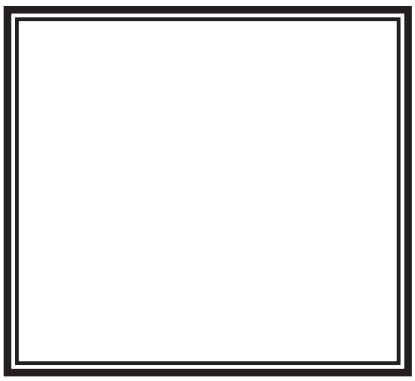
British Occupation of Mafia Island

“G. R. / MAFIA” Overprints

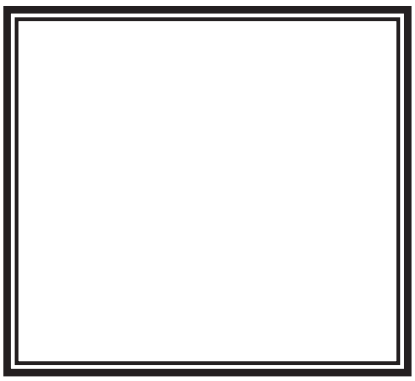
Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

14 January 1915

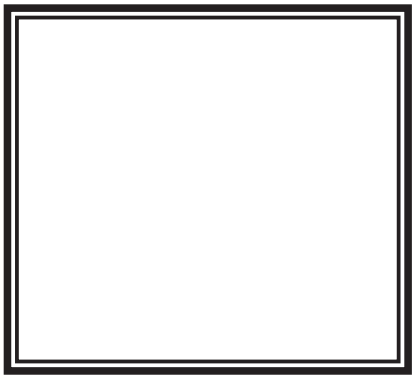
Watermark



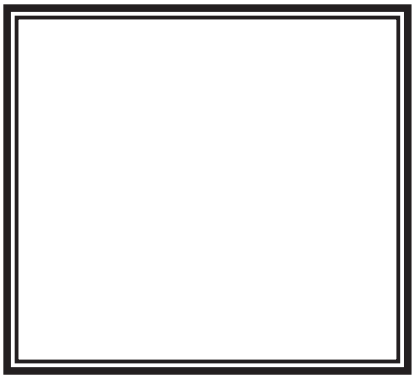
Dark Green
4 Heller
Black Overprint
HAN H 2565.12 at bottom



Bright to Dark Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Red
Black Overprint
HAN H 2565.12 at bottom



Dark Green
4 Heller
Blackish-Violet Overprint
HAN H 2565.12 at bottom



Bright to Dark Red Carmine
7 ½ Heller
(UV) Red
Blackish-Violet Overprint
HAN H 2565.12 at bottom

www.germanstamps.net

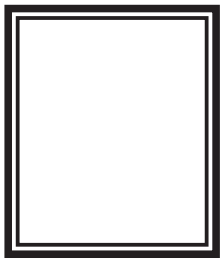
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

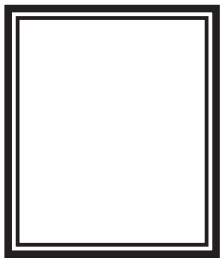
British Occupation of Mafia Island

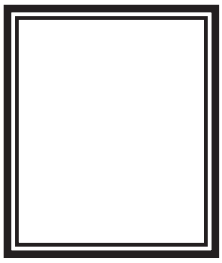
Watermark

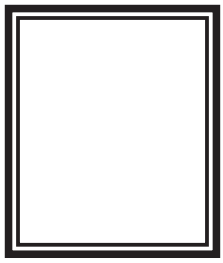
"G. R. / POST / 6 CENTS / MAFIA" Overprints

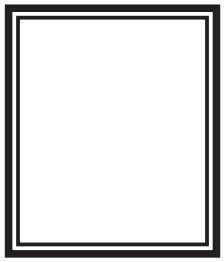
July 1915

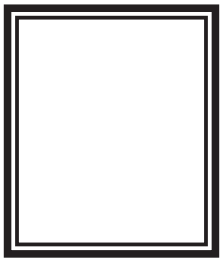

(Bright) Ochre Brown
6 Cents on 2 ½ Heller

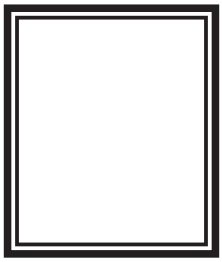

Dark Green
6 Cents on 4 Heller

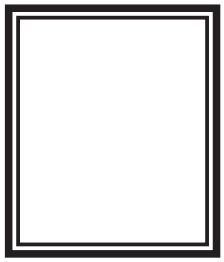

Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
6 Cents on 7 ½ Heller


(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
6 Cents on 15 Heller


Dark (Reddish) Orange /
Yellow Black on Light Yellow
6 Cents on 20 Heller


Dark Reddish Carmine /
(Brown) Black
6 Cents on 30 Heller


Red Violet / Black
6 Cents on 45 Heller


(Bright) Opal Green
6 Cents on 5 Pesa
on 5 Pfennig
No Watermark

Dark Lilac Red
6 Cents on 1 Rupie
No Watermark

Dark Emerald Green
6 Cents on 2 Rupien
No Watermark

Dark (Carmine) Red / Green Black
6 Cents on 3 Rupien

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The second issues feature a "G. R. / POST / 6 CENTS / MAFIA" overprint. A subtype exists with wide spacing between the "G." and "R.", but only a single set is known.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

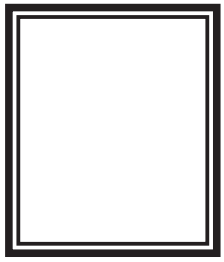
British Occupation of Mafia Island

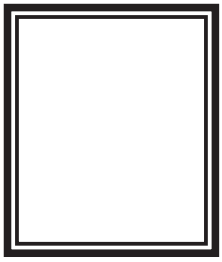
"G. R. / POST / 6 CENTS / MAFIA" Overprints

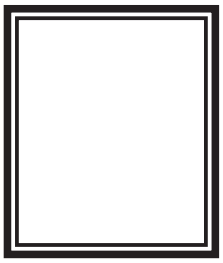
Watermark

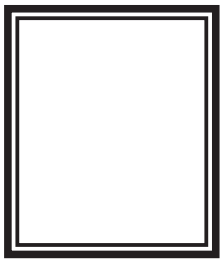
Overprint Flaws

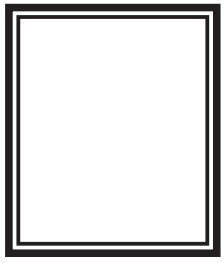
July 1915

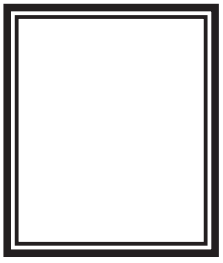

(Bright) Ochre Brown
6 Cents on 2 ½ Heller
Inverted overprint


Dark Green
6 Cents on 4 Heller
Inverted overprint


Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
6 Cents on 7 ½ Heller
Inverted overprint


Bright Carmine Red
to Dark Red Carmine
6 Cents on 7 ½ Heller
Double overprint, one inverted


(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
6 Cents on 15 Heller
Double overprint


(Bright) Lilac Ultramarine
6 Cents on 15 Heller
Triple overprint

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

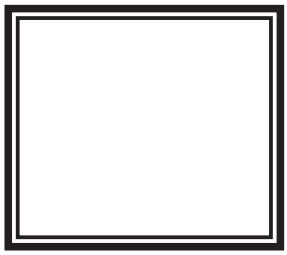
British Occupation of Mafia Island

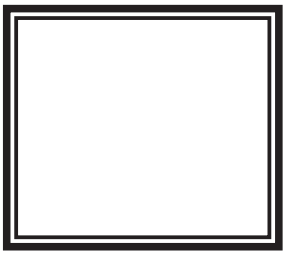
Watermark

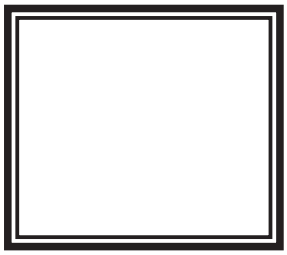
"O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA" Overprints

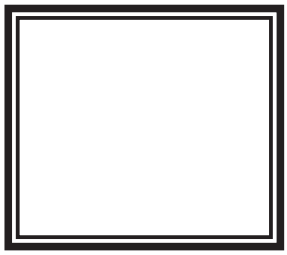
1915

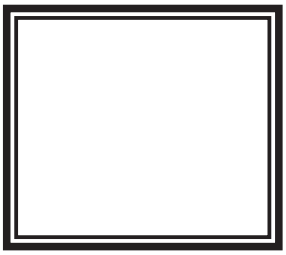
On Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps


Orange to Dull Brown
24 Pesa
No Watermark

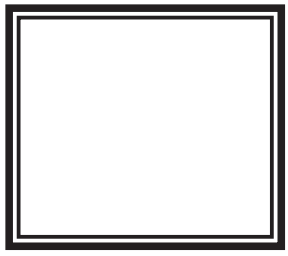

Dull Brown
12 ½ Heller


Dull Gray Green
25 Heller


Turquoise Gray
50 Heller


Dark Lilac
1 Rupie

On Translation Fee Revenue Stamp


(Dark) Gray
25 Heller

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The third issues are German East Africa fiscal stamps overprinted with a circular "O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA", meaning "On His British Majesty's Service".

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

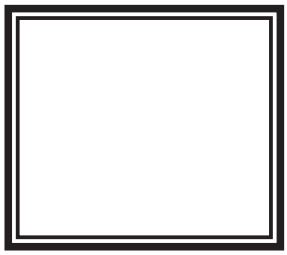
British Occupation of Mafia Island

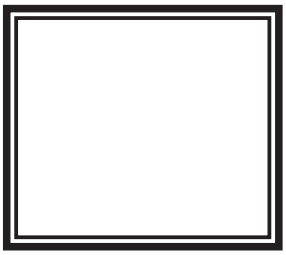
Watermark

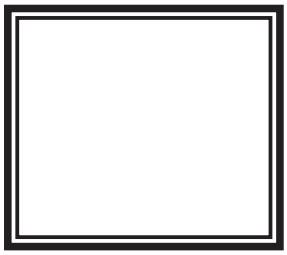
"O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA" & "G. R. / POST / MAFIA" Overprints

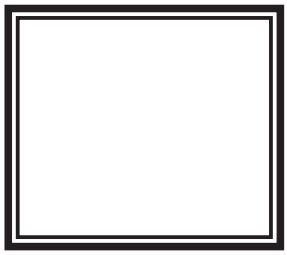
1915

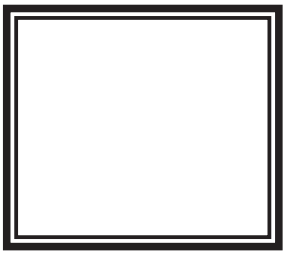
On Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps


Orange to Dull Brown
24 Pesa
No Watermark

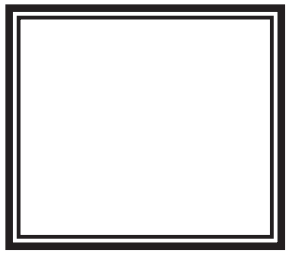

Dull Brown
12 ½ Heller


Dull Gray Green
25 Heller


Turquoise Gray
50 Heller


Dark Lilac
1 Rupie

On Translation Fee Revenue Stamp


(Dark) Gray
25 Heller

On 12 January 1915, British troops occupied Mafia Island for use as a base for the air and sea assault on the German cruiser *SMS Königsberg*, which had retreated to safety in the delta of the nearby Rufiji River. Upon occupying the island, the British used a handstamp to overprint German East Africa issues for use by British forces in the area. The fourth issues were the previous "O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA" issues with an additional "G. R. / POST / MAFIA" overprint.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

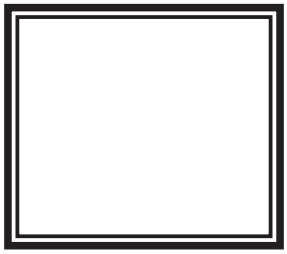
British Occupation of Mafia Island

“O.H.B.M.S. / MAFIA” & “G. R. / POST / MAFIA” Overprints

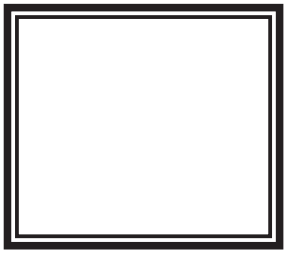
Watermark

Overprint Flaws

1915



Orange to Dull Brown
24 Pesa
No Watermark
Missing “O.H.B.M.S.” portion of overprint

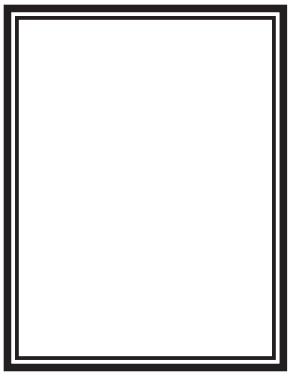


Dull Gray Green
25 Heller
Missing “O.H.B.M.S.” portion of overprint

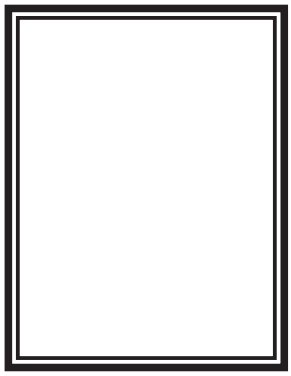
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

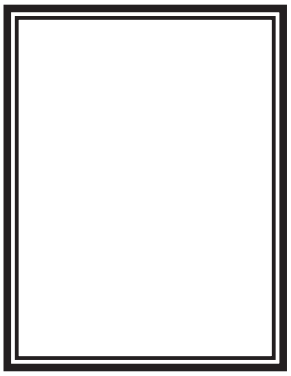
Karissimbi Provisionals



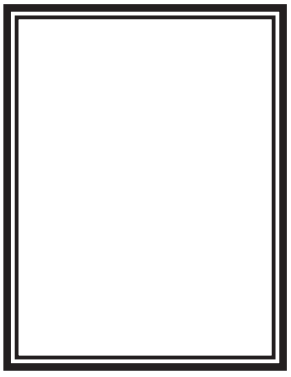
2 ½ Heller



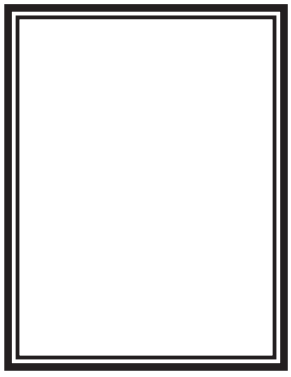
4 Heller



7 ½ Heller



15 Heller



30 Heller

This 5-stamp series of forgeries of the German East Africa yacht issues was discovered in the years after WWI, but the stamps' exact provenance is still a mystery.

The stamps are not believed to have been intended as true forgeries, as they are so different in design quality and size that they could not possibly have fooled users. Most theories place there origin within the British propaganda executive during the period from 1916-1918, though there are competing theories that they are of Italian origin post-WWI, or produced as provisional issues by German forces in DOA during 1917.

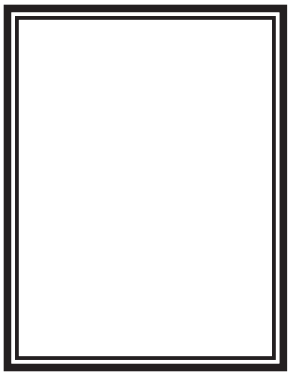
The famous cinderella expert Harry F. Rooke referred to the stamps as the "Karissimbi provisionals", though the reason for giving them this name is unknown. Karissimbi is a volcano that was in the western part of German East Africa.

They are known to exist unoverprinted, overprinted "G.E.A. BRITISH OCCUPATION" with new values, and overprinted with forged cancels. Imperforate copies are also known.

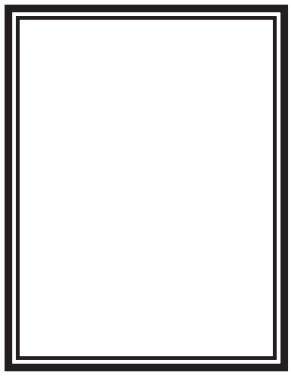
www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

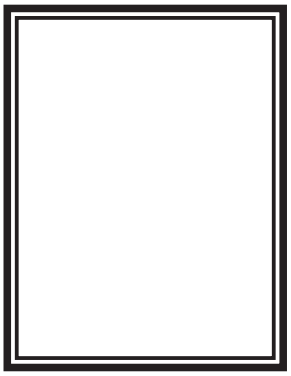
Karissimbi Provisionals



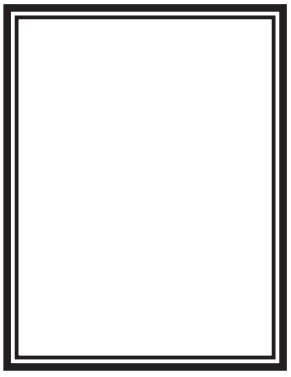
12 Cents on 2½ Heller



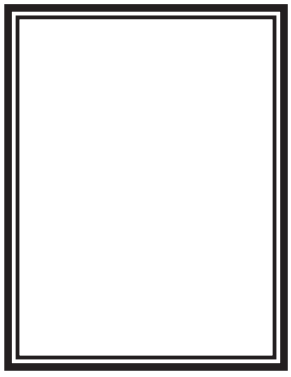
3 Cents on 4 Heller



6 Cents on 7½ Heller



15 Cents on 15 Heller



25 Cents on 30 Heller

This 5-stamp series of forgeries of the German East Africa yacht issues was discovered in the years after WWI, but the stamps' exact provenance is still a mystery.

The stamps are not believed to have been intended as true forgeries, as they are so different in design quality and size that they could not possibly have fooled users. Most theories place there origin within the British propaganda executive during the period from 1916-1918, though there are competing theories that they are of Italian origin post-WWI, or produced as provisional issues by German forces in DOA during 1917.

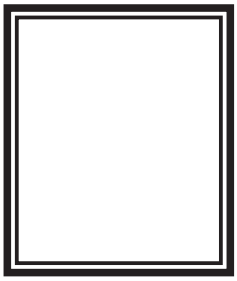
The famous cinderella expert Harry F. Rooke referred to the stamps as the "Karissimbi provisionals", though the reason for giving them this name is unknown. Karissimbi is a volcano that was in the western part of German East Africa.

They are known to exist unoverprinted, overprinted "G.E.A. BRITISH OCCUPATION" with new values, and overprinted with forged cancels. Imperforate copies are also known.

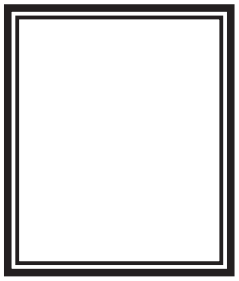
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Portuguese Occupation of Kionga

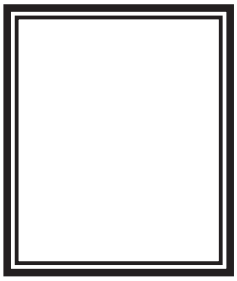
29 May 1916



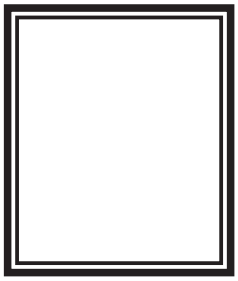
Blue-Black on Blue
½ Centavo on 100 Reis



Blue-Black on Blue
1 Centavo on 100 Reis



Blue-Black on Blue
2 ½ Centavos on 100 Reis

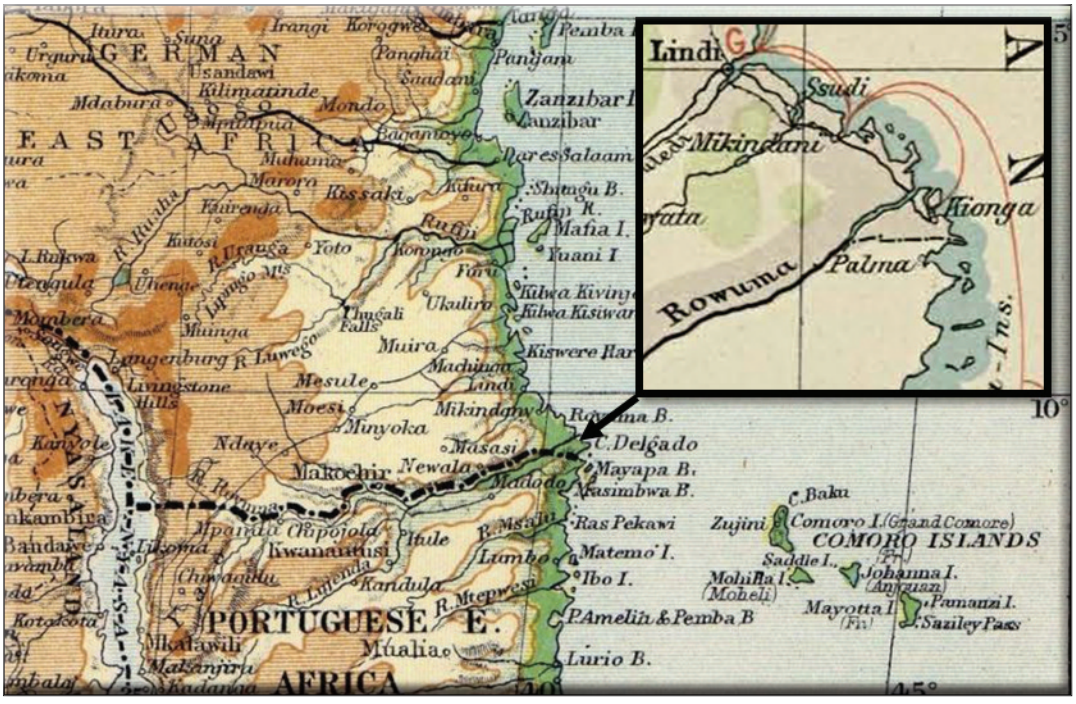


Blue-Black on Blue
5 Centavos on 100 Reis

In the late 19th century, the coastal area of Kionga was a consistent point of friction between German East Africa in the north and Portuguese East Africa in the south. Following numerous skirmishes over the territory, an arbitrator awarded the northern portion to German East Africa and the southern portion to Portuguese East Africa.

Upon Portugal's entry into WWI on the side of the Allies on 9 March 1916, Portuguese forces quickly set out to retake the entirety of Kionga. On 10 April 1916, they occupied the German portion of Kionga and implemented a civil administration over the area.

The Portuguese administration issued a single set of stamps consisting of four overprinted stamps of Lourenço Marques.



www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

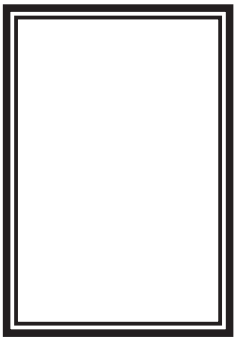
Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

Belgian Congo Overprints

November 1916

Light Green / Black
5 Centimes

Carmine / Black
10 Centimes



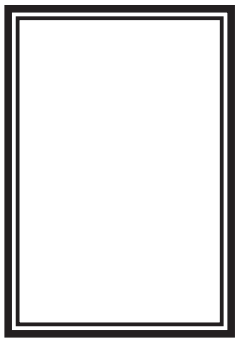
Blue Green / Black
15 Centimes

Dark Blue / Black
25 Centimes

Dark Carmine / Black
40 Centimes

Lilac Brown / Black
50 Centimes

Olive / Black
1 Franc



Orange / Black
5 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The Belgians issued several sets of stamps for use in the Belgian-occupied areas, including these overprints of Belgian Congo issues. The overprint is “EST AFRICAIN ALLEMAND / OCCUPATION BELGE / DUITSCH OOST AFRIKA / BELGISCHE BEZETTING.” (German East Africa / Belgian Occupation).

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

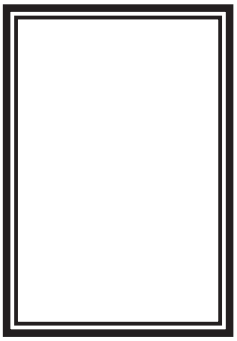
"RUANDA." Overprints

RUANDA.

July 1916

Light Green / Black
5 Centimes

Carmine / Black
10 Centimes



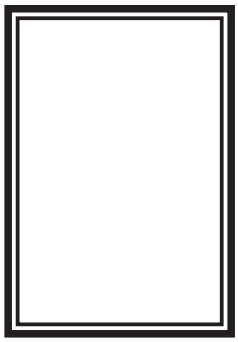
Blue Green / Black
15 Centimes

Dark Blue / Black
25 Centimes

Dark Carmine / Black
40 Centimes

Lilac Brown / Black
50 Centimes

Olive / Black
1 Franc



Orange / Black
5 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The first stamps designed for issue in the occupied Ruanda and Urundi territories were issues of Belgian Congo overprinted "RUANDA." or "URUNDI.". They were never issued, however.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

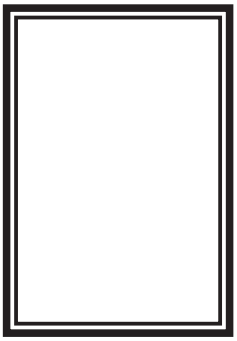
"URUNDI." Overprints

URUNDI.

July 1916

Light Green / Black
5 Centimes

Carmine / Black
10 Centimes



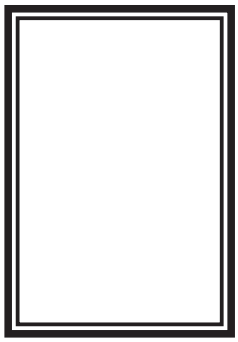
Blue Green / Black
15 Centimes

Dark Blue / Black
25 Centimes

Dark Carmine / Black
40 Centimes

Lilac Brown / Black
50 Centimes

Olive / Black
1 Franc



Orange / Black
5 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The first stamps designed for issue in the occupied Ruanda and Urundi territories were issues of Belgian Congo overprinted "RUANDA." or "URUNDI.". They were never issued, however.

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

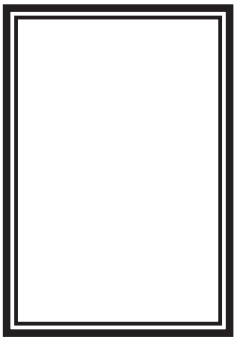
Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

Belgian Congo “A.O.” Overprints

15 May 1918

Green / Ultramarine
5+10 Centimes

Pink / Ultramarine
10+15 Centimes



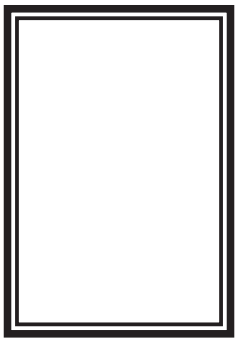
Blue Green / Ultramarine
15+20 Centimes

Dark Blue / Ultramarine
25+25 Centimes

Dark Carmine / Ultramarine
40+40 Centimes

Brown Carmine / Ultramarine
50+50 Centimes

Olive Yellow / Ultramarine
1+1 Franc



Orange / Ultramarine
5+5 Francs

Green / Ultramarine
10+10 Francs

In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The Belgians issued several sets of stamps for use in the Belgian-occupied areas, including these overprints of Belgian Congo issues. The overprint is “A.O.”, an abbreviation for Afrique Oriental (East Africa).

www.germanstamps.net

German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Belgian Occupation of German East Africa

Surcharged Overprints

1 January 1922

Lilac Brown / Black
5 Centimes on 50 Centimes

Light Green / Black
10 Centimes on 5 Centimes

Dark Carmine / Black
25 Centimes on 40 Centimes

Carmine / Black
30 Centimes on 10 Centimes

Dark Blue / Black
50 Centimes on 25 Centimes

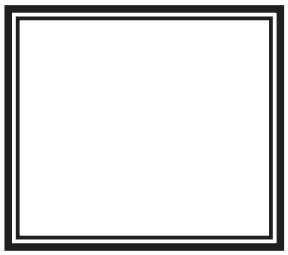
In April 1916, Belgian troops invaded German East Africa from the Belgian Congo. The Belgians issued several sets of stamps for use in the Belgian-occupied areas, including these surcharged overprints of Belgian Congo issues. The stamps are the November 1916 overprint issues with a surcharge added.

www.germanstamps.net

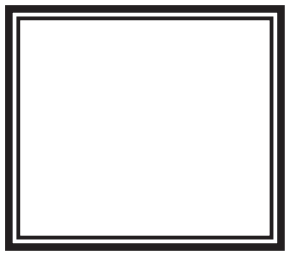
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

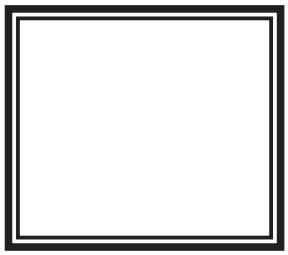
1892



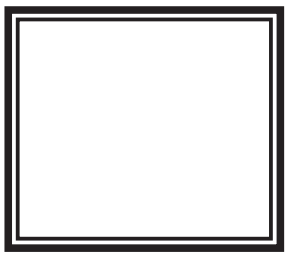
Gray Brown
8 Pesa



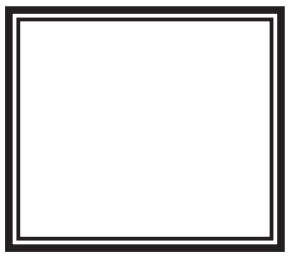
Yellowish Brown
8 Pesa



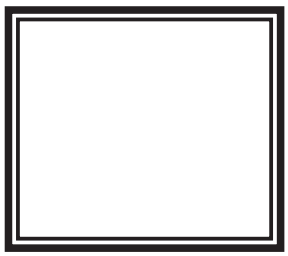
Dark Green
16 Pesa



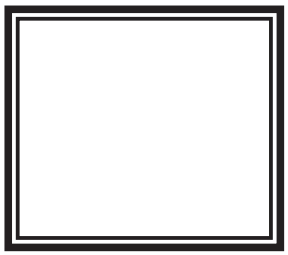
Yellowish Green
16 Pesa



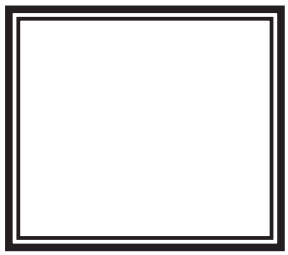
Red
24 Pesa



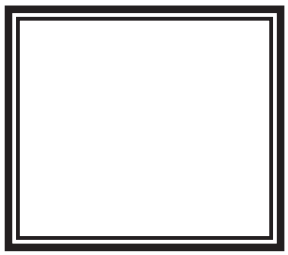
Blue
32 Pesa



Grayish Blue
32 Pesa



Violet
1 Rupie
Perf. 12



Violet
1 Rupie
Perf. 13 ¾

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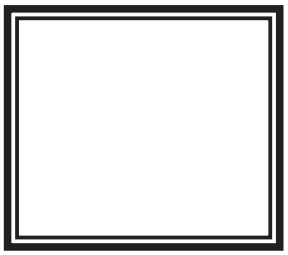
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

Interim Value Printing

1904 / 1905



Reddish Brown
0,125 Rupie

On 1 April 1905, Deutsch-Ostafrika was to switch from using Rupie/Pesa currency to Rupie/Heller currency. In mid-1904, it became apparent that stocks of the most used value of Statistical Fee stamp, 8 Pesa, would not be sufficient to last until 1 April 1905, when the Heller values would become valid for use. A printing was therefore done of an interim value, the 0.125 Rupie, which could be used as an 8 Pesa prior to the currency change, and as a 12 ½ Heller after the currency change.

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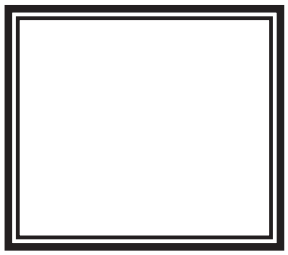
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

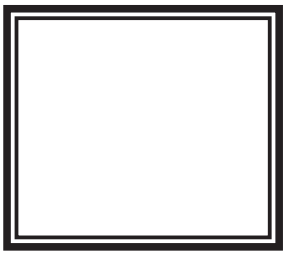
Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

Provisional Manuscript Revalues

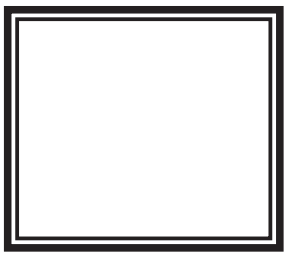
1905



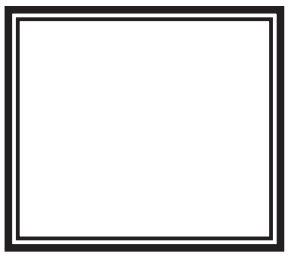
Yellowish Brown
12,5 Heller on 8 Pesa



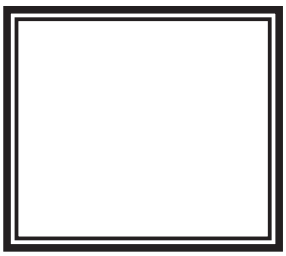
Yellowish Green
0,25 Rupie on 16 Pesa



Red
37 ½ Heller on 24 Pesa



Red
0,375 Rupie on 24 Pesa



Grayish Blue
50 Heller on 32 Pesa

On 1 April 1905, Deutsch-Ostafrika switched from using Rupie/Pesa currency to Rupie/Heller currency. To avoid wasting remaining stocks of Pesa-valued stamps, several locations continued using them after 1 April 1905, but handwrote the new Heller values on the face of the stamps. As this was done by various clerks at various locations, numerous handwritings exist.

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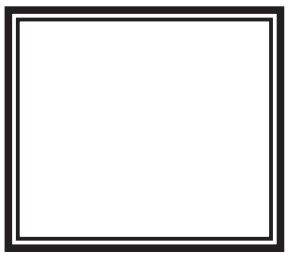
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

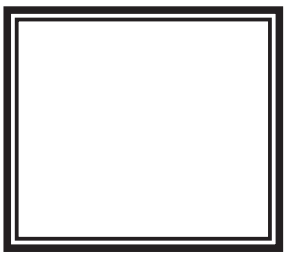
Provisional Handstamp Revalues

1905

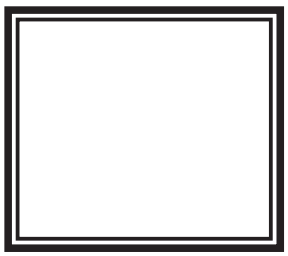
Type I



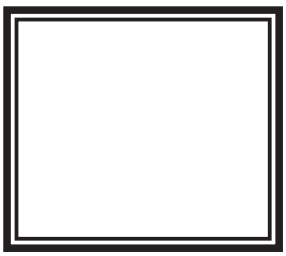
Yellowish Brown
0.125 Rupie on 8 Pesa
Violet Handstamp



Yellowish Green
0.25 Rupie on 16 Pesa
Blue Handstamp

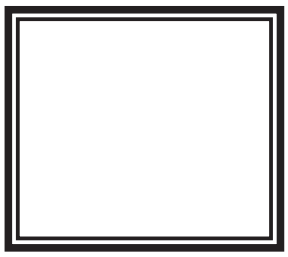


Red
0.375 Rupie on 24 Pesa
Violet Handstamp

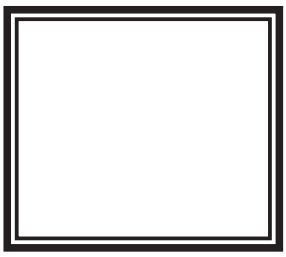


Grayish Blue
0.50 Rupie on 32 Pesa
Violet Handstamp

Type II

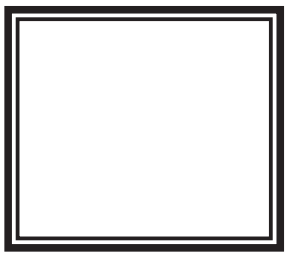


Yellowish Green
0.25 Rupie on 16 Pesa
Blue Handstamp

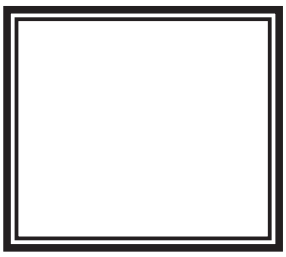


Grayish Blue
0.50 Rupie on 32 Pesa
Blue Handstamp

Type III



Red
0,375 Rupie on 24 Pesa
Violet Handstamp



Grayish Blue
0,50 Rupie on 32 Pesa
Violet Handstamp

On 1 April 1905, Deutsch-Ostafrika switched from using Rupie/Pesa currency to Rupie/Heller currency. To avoid wasting remaining stocks of Pesa-valued stamps, several locations continued using them after 1 April 1905, but handstamped the new Heller values on the face of the stamps. Three types of handstamps are known.

Type I – Small print in a single line, line through previous value
Type II – Small print in a single line, triangles in corners
Type III – Large print in two lines

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

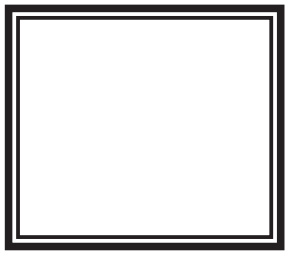
Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

Provisional Handstamp Revalues

Overprint Variety

1905

Inverted Overprint



Yellowish Green
0.25 Rupie on 16 Pesa
Blue Handstamp

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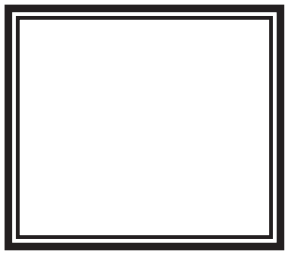
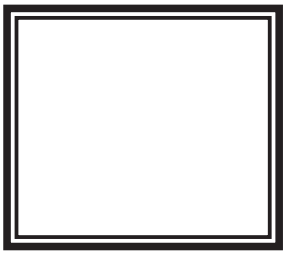
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

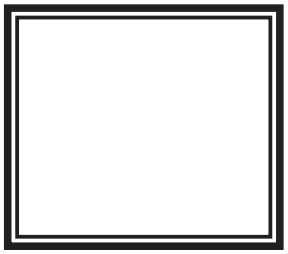
Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

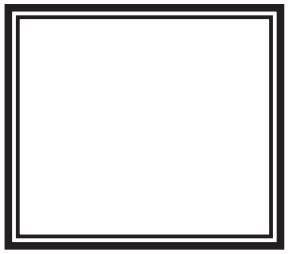
1905

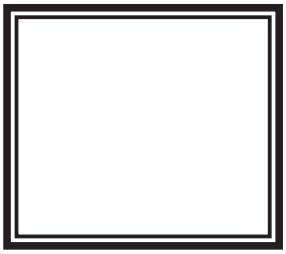
Watermark


Light Brown
12 ½ Heller


Yellowish Green
25 Heller


Dark Blue
50 Heller


Gray Blue
50 Heller


Violet
1 Rupie

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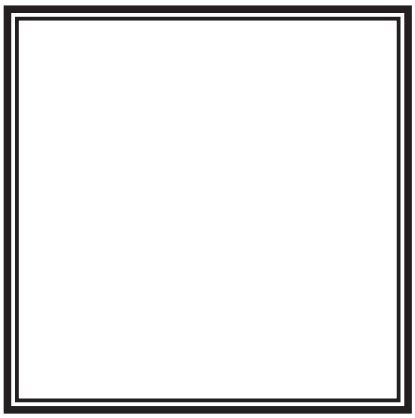
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

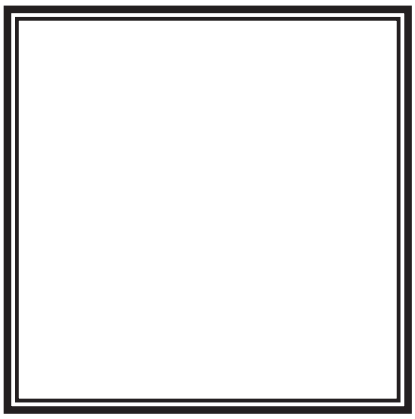
Order Numbers / Hausauftragsnummern (HAN)

1905

Watermark



Yellowish Green
25 Heller
HAN 7518.12 at left or right



Gray Blue
50 Heller
HAN 7518.12 at left or right

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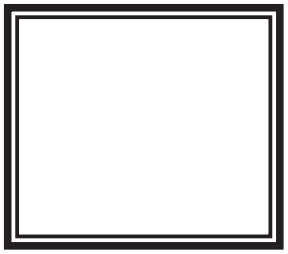
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Statistical Fee Revenue Stamps

Proof

1905

Watermark



Green
25 Heller
Perf. Comb 13 ¾:14

A variety of the 25 Heller value in a darker green color and perforated 13 ¾:14 instead of 13 ¾:13 is known. It is presumed to be a proof.

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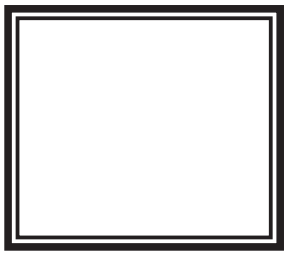
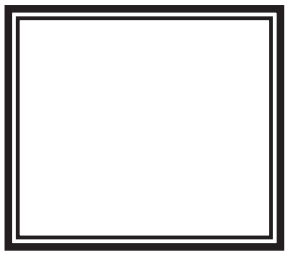
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Dock Fee Revenue Stamps

1913

Watermark


Light Brown
Red Overprint
5 Heller on 12 ½ Heller


Yellowish Green
Gray Overprint
10 Heller on 25 Heller

Dar-es-Salaam Harbor

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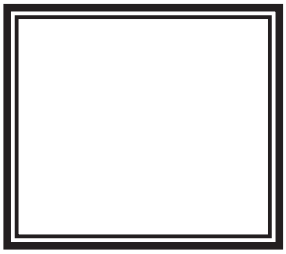
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

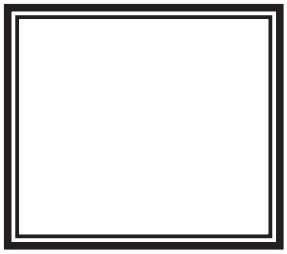
Dock Fee Revenue Stamps

1913

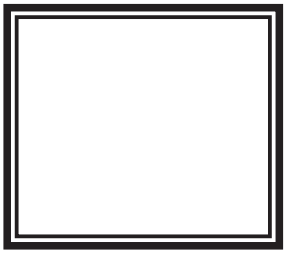
Watermark



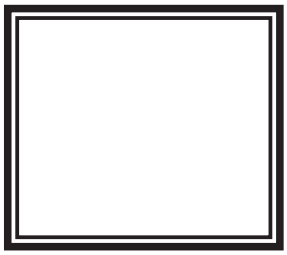
Blue Gray
5 Heller on 25 Heller



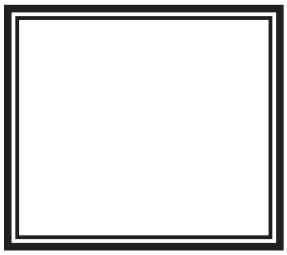
Lilac
10 Heller on 25 Heller



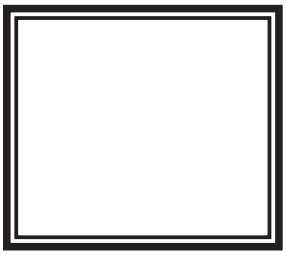
Orange
20 Heller on 25 Heller



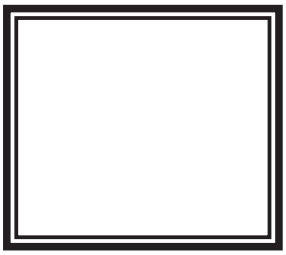
Red
40 Heller on 25 Heller



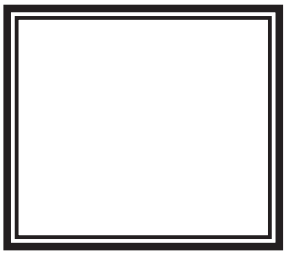
Gray Blue
1 Rupie on 1 Rupie



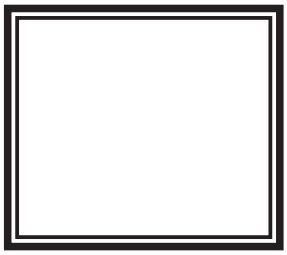
Blue
1 Rupie on 1 Rupie



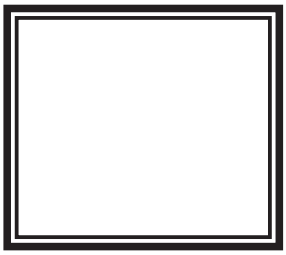
Dark Blue
1 Rupie on 1 Rupie



Brown
5 Rupien on 1 Rupie



Red Brown
10 Rupien on 1 Rupie



Light Red
50 Rupien on 1 Rupie

The 5 Heller, 10 Heller, and 50 Rupien values are known to exist only as samples in the archives of the Bundesdruckerei (German State Printers). All other values are only known used.

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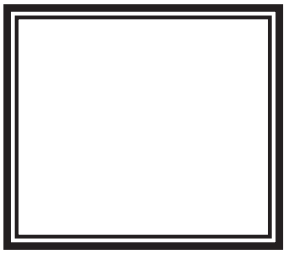
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

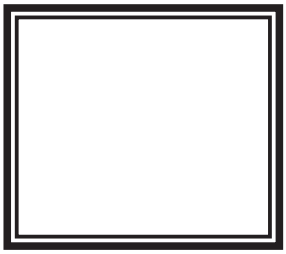
Storage Fee Revenue Stamps

1914

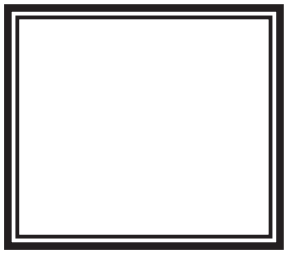
Watermark



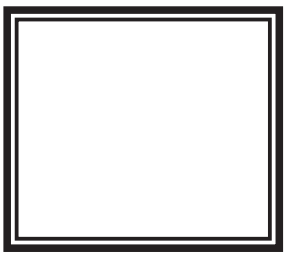
Pink
5 Heller on 25 Heller



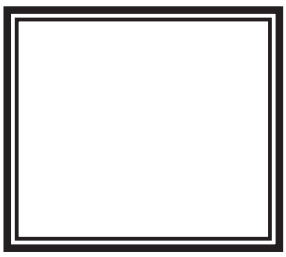
Orange
10 Heller on 25 Heller



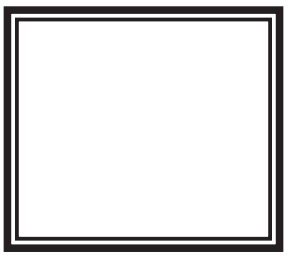
Yellow
10 Heller on 25 Heller



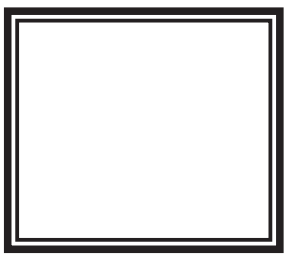
Light Green
25 Heller on 25 Heller



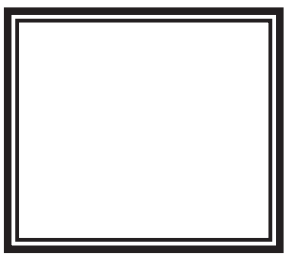
Blue
50 Heller on 50 Heller



Gray Blue
50 Heller on 50 Heller



Olive
75 Heller on 25 Heller



Violet
1 Rupie on 1 Rupie

All values are only known used.

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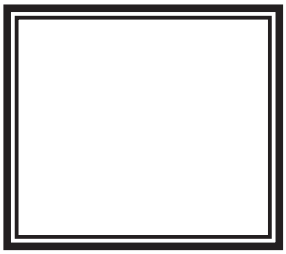
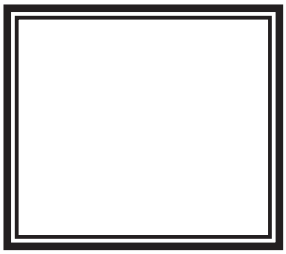
German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Translation Fee Revenue Stamps

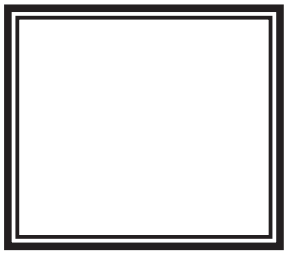
1894



Blue Gray
15 Pesa



Gray
15 Pesa

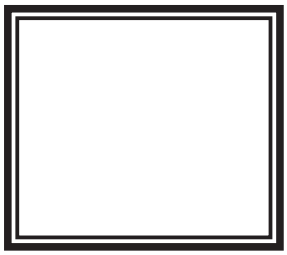


Dark Gray
15 Pesa

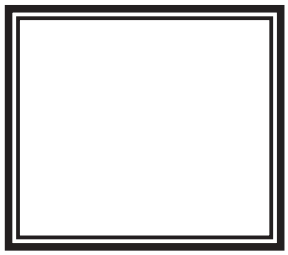
1905

On 1 April 1905, Deutsch-Ostafrika switched from using Rupie/Pesa currency to Rupie/Heller currency. To avoid wasting remaining stocks of Pesa-valued stamps, several locations continued using them after 1 April 1905, but handwrote or handstamped the new Heller values on the face of the stamps.

Handwritten in black or red ink



Gray
0,25 Rupie on 15 Pesa

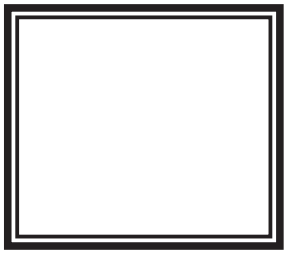


Gray
0.25 Rupie on 15 Pesa

Handstamp with small print in a single line, triangles in corners

1905

Watermark



Gray
25 Heller

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German East Africa
Deutsch-Ostafrika

Translation Fee Revenue Stamps

Vertical Bisects

1905

Watermark

Vertical bisects of the 25 Heller Translation Fee stamp used to pay a 12 ½ Heller rate are known. To date, 4 copies are known, all on pieces cut from sailing permits (Segelerlaubnisscheinen).

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