

# VORLÄUFER

THE GERMANY COLONIES  
COLLECTORS GROUP



NUMBER 5  
LATE SUMMER - 1973

This Late Summer edition is being put together in July just after sending out the Early Summer edition. Hence there has been no time to receive comments, questions, or answers to any of the material therein. As stated in that previous issue, your Editor will welcome correspondence and contributions of items for the next issue which will be assembled on Nantucket and printed and distributed upon his return to Wilmington in early October.

A rather enthusiasm-dampening development has taken place in our Group's relations with DGE. Our liaison man, Dr. Detering, has written that the Editor of the DGE publication "Berichte" has ruled that any article in that publication which your Editor wants to reprint in "Vorläufer" must first have the permission of the author. It seems that that editor is worried about copyright complications. Blanket permission to reprint any item of Dr. Detering's or the Editor's (He is Herr Schlinigen, a prolific writer-expert) has been given, but that does not help in the cases of the many other authors. The correspondence, address, and language barriers make writing for this permission from individual authors a most time consuming and difficult task. Herr Schlinigen has also ruled that the exchange of our publications is not specifically authorised in DGE's by-laws, and to receive copies your Editor must become a member. This is being done under the sponsorship of Dr. Detering who has sent, as part of this transaction, copies of the December 1972 and April 1973 "Berichte". Further correspondence is being conducted concerning special consideration for reprinting "Berichte" articles in "Vorläufer" since it is not a commercial publication.

Apologies are due author Ludwig Meyer and all Group members for the mental lapse of your Editor in misnumbering some of the pages in Ludwig's fine POW Camps article in the previous issue. Since this is a valuable reference article which many members will want to retain in their philatelic libraries, the pages quite properly should be in proper numerical order. Accordingly, attached to this issue are two replacement pages. They should be substituted for the next to last two pages of the article and then it will be complete and in proper sequence.

Some members of our Group do respond, some happily with literary contributions (or promises), but so far we have what has been called in another field a "silent majority". Some letters contain questions or answers, most welcome, which find their way into that column of "Vorläufer". A few - not enough - have requested Group auctions. Others make comments or take exceptions to previous articles. In order to avoid becoming a referee in these differences of opinion, your Editor proposes that dissidents write the authors directly, requesting the address beforehand from him, or write an unaddressed letter and enclose it in an envelope to your Editor who will forward it.

As many of you know by now, the 1973 annual TPG Convention will be held in conjunction with SEPID in Philadelphia at the Sheraton Hotel October 19-21. Our member Jerry Newman is publishing under the aegis of SEPID a comprehensive study, "The Philately of German East Africa" which will go on sale at the TPG show. Your Editor has been trying to get details from SEPID so our members may order the book by mail. They are not available at this writing, but hopefully will be for the next issue.

Our Editor is indebted to Stanley Spurgeon of Oakland, California for this fine article and for the loan of some of his actual Witu pieces to illustrate it.

## THE POSTALITY OF THE GERMAN WITU PROTECTORATE

by  
Stanley Spurgeon

During the 19th century European trading companies often had their own protectates independent of the colonies claimed and administered by their governments. Company officials would secure exclusive trading rights from local native chiefs. These arrangements were made notably in Togo and Kamerun. In the East African area Clemens Behnhardt so secured the Witu Protectorate (Swahiland) on the coast of present Kenya. This private treaty of 8 April, 1885 was superseded by Imperial Letters of Protection of 27 May, 1885 giving official blessing to Behnhardt's company's activities without involving Government resources at the time.

Such company activity would require good communication with the homeland. Even though German ships had no scheduled departures to East Africa at the time, Germany opened a post office at Lamu, the principal town of the Witu Protectorate, on 22 November, 1888. This agency was really an Office abroad and was made the responsibility of the German Witu Company. It was concerned only with mail between Lamu and Germany. Since German ships coming in and out of Lamu were very infrequent, mail was sometimes franked and then sent privately south to British Zanzibar where the German stamps were cancelled at the British Zanzibar post office and sent to Europe on British steamers. This reproduction of a photograph from the Lamu section of the Friedmann Handbook illustrates such a cover.

The German stamps sold in Lamu Post Office were the 5, 10, 20, and 50 pfz denominations of the 1880 "Hermann" series (Mi 40-42 and 44) plus the 2 mark Mi 37c. The 3 pfz and 25 pfz values are known with Lamu cancellations but they were never sold there. It was formerly thought that the 1889 "Flag" series was not sold in Lamu, but this was disproved some 10-12 years ago. All six values were sold there from 1st February 1889 until the office closed on 21 March, 1891. The large numbers of the 1880 series available greatly limited their use, however.

This article is principally concerned with the unusual, short-lived stamps of Swahiland (Witu Protectorate) itself. Sultan Ahmed Jilma of Swahiland was favorably impressed with the postal services of Britain and Germany, and wanted to establish his own to promote trade and prosperity. He died early in 1889, but his successor, Sultan Fumo Bakari, followed through on the idea. He wanted to order postage stamps from the German Government printing office. His advisor, Clements Behnhardt, co-founder of the Witu Company, suggested local production to save money. An original method of authenticating documents was to use an impression of a facsimile rather than a handwritten signature. Printing postage stamps by hand from hand-carved dies could be done by the Sultan's own staff. So this was done. The same script design was used for all values, with the difference being expressed by the color of the paper. There were two sets of stamps - one for regular mail and one for official mail. Arabic die carvers worked without a model and their early efforts were not satisfactory. Postal service was to open on 1 July, 1889 and stamps were needed by that date.



So, even if it did not meet all of the Sultan's specifications, each new die was used until a better one became available. The several designs considered as different sets in the Michel catalogue were really issued proofs and each was used until a better one became available. Hence there were five "issues" between July 1 and August 18, 1889 for the regular stamps and three "issues" between July 13 and August 8 for the officials. The entire process of dies and proofs, done behind doors in Western countries, was visible to all in Witu.

Colored paper was ordered from Bombay, India after samples were submitted. Suppliers' stock in the colors selected for the 2 and 7 pesa stamps however, was insufficient. Since the stamps were required immediately, paper differing slightly in tone was used to fill out the order. Hence there are two shades of these two values in all issues. Each value, whether regular or official, had its own distinctive color of paper. For instance, all 1 Rupie stamps were printed on blue green paper.

Regular Issues



First Issue (Mi 1)  
with circular cancel

Second Issue (Mi 1b)  
with circular cancel

Official Issues



First Issue (Mi 2)  
with circular cancel



Second Issue (Mi 13)  
with bar cancel with "7"

Each "issue" consisted of 12 values. The first came out in early July with the inscription in Arabic, "Insignia of the Posts of the Sultan of Swahiland" in three lines. The second series issued in late July was inscribed "Posts of the Sultan of Swahiland" in four lines. The third set a week later had the same inscription in three lines. The mid-August set had wording identical to the previous two but in vertical format in four lines. The final set a few days later had the same inscription in three lines. The official stamps have distinctive features even for those unable to read Arabic. The first set issued in mid-July is much larger, being 18x35 mm compared to 21x18 mm for the first three series of regular stamps. There is also a distinctive five-pointed star in the center of the stamps. The second official set came out in late July but is only 18x22 mm. The star is superimposed on the three line inscription. The final official set in early August has a four line diagonal inscription from upper left to lower right.

All stamps were issued imperforate and unguaranteed. There was sufficient space between stamps so that full margins are the rule. My 20 odd used stamps have one of

two cancel types. The most frequent is the single line 20 mm circle with "WITO" at the top, the date in the center, and a line of Arabic at the bottom. The other cancel is an 18x24 mm rectangle of 10 bars with a large "W" in the center. The numbers of these stamps known to exist are very small. They range from only a dozen or so of some 2 and 7 pesa varieties, up to about 150 of the more "common" varieties. Postal validity extended until the takeover of Government functions by the British East Indian Company under the provisions of the Anglo-German Agreement of 1890, or about a year's total use.

While these short lived stamps of Suahililand are scarce, their value is not yet consistent with their rarity. They are perfectly legitimate issues of a government interestingly entwined with the early, brief history of Germany in this part of East Africa.

- Based on a 1951 translation of the Dr. Ty Handbuch by Erich Haide as furnished by Sam Fuzin.

#### EDITORIAL EPLOGUE

After submission of this article for "Vorläufer" by Mr. Spurgeon, a remarkable coincidence took place. Your Editor received a copy of the Heinrich Köhler auction catalogue of his auction of 5-8 June. In this auction was offered and illustrated in the catalogue a collection of every stamp issued by the Witu Protectorate cancelled on piece! The descriptions and illustrations of these lots can well serve as a catalogue of these issues. For this reason, and because of the data given on the number of used copies known and the "schatzpreis" given for each stamp (well above Michel) these Witu lots and illustrations are reproduced below. The translation of the introductory remarks in the auction catalogue is included.

"The following are (96) lots of a complete collection of the Witu Protectorate which has been exhibited many times. The figures in parentheses indicate the number of known cancelled pieces from the Denhardt legacy. All of the pieces are authenticated by the signature of Behrens and Richter. An interesting territory, closed scarcely after it opened. Lots 5121-5217 will be closed and considered as a whole to a higher bid (than the total of the individual bids)."

Nachfolgend die Auflösung einer kompletten Sammlung des Witu-Schutzgebietes, die auf Ausstellungen vielleicht ausgestellt wurde. Die Ziffern in Klammern bedeuten die Auswahl der seinerzeit im Nachlaß Denhardts aufgefundenen gestempelten Stücke. Sämtliche Stücke sind signiert von Behrens und Richter. Ein interessantes Gebiet und geschlossen kaum noch zu bekommen. Die Lose Nr. 5121-5217 werden bei Obergabot geschlossen abgegeben.

#### WITU-SCHUTZGEBIET

P 5121°	1889, 1 Juli, 1 Pesa a. graugrün, Kabinettbriefst. (15)	1	△ 240,-
P 5122°	2 Pesa a. bräunlichgelb, Kabinettbriefstück (13)	2	△ 450,-
P 5123°	3 Pesa a. ziegelrot, breitrandiges Luxusbriefstück (22)	3	△ 160,-
P 5124°	4 Pesa rosa, Kabinettbriefstück m. Stpl. „WITO 15. 7. 89“ (25)	4	△ 140,-
P 5125°	5 Pesa dunkelkarmin, Kabinettbriefstück, „WITO 18. 8. 89“ (27)	5	△ 100,-
P 5126°	6 Pesa a. grau, Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 20. 7. 89“	6	△ 140,-
P 5127°	7 Pesa a. hellblau, feinstes Kabinettbriefstück (17)	7	△ 180,-
P 5128°	8 Pesa a. dunkelblau, Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 28. 7. 89“ (21)	8	△ 160,-
P 5129°	½ Rupie a. lachsfarben, kleines Kabinettbriefstück (26)	9	△ 140,-
P 5130°	½ Rupie a. braun, breites Kabinettbriefstück (27)	10	△ 140,-
P 5131°	¾ Rupie a. grün, feinstes Kabinettbriefstück (24)	11	△ 140,-
P 5132°	1 Rupie a. blaugrün, Luxusbriefstück „WITO 20. 7. 89“ (22)	12	△ 140,-

Los-Nr.		Mi.-Nr.	Schätzpreis DM
P 5133	<b>II. Ausgabe</b> 26. Juli 1889. 1 Pesa a. graugrün. Kabinettbriefstück (23)	13	140,-
P 5134	2 Pesa a. braungelb. Kabinettbriefstück (23)	14	150,-
P 5135	3 Pesa ziegelrot, feinstes Kabinettbriefstück (30)	15	140,-
P 5136	4 Pesa a. rosa. <b>Kabinettbriefstück</b> (25)	16	140,-
P 5137	5 Pesa a. dkl.-karmin. breites Kabinettbriefstück (28)	17	140,-
P 5138	6 Pesa a. grau, Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 27. 7. 89“ (28)	18	140,-
P 5139	7 Pesa a. hellblau. Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 27. 7. 89“ (20)	19	180,-
P 5140	8 Pa. a. dunkelblau. Luxusbriefstück „WITU 28. 7. 89“	20	140,-
P 5141	1½ Rupie a. lachsfarben. Kabinettbriefstück (16)	21	140,-
P 5142	½ Rupie a. braun, breites Kabinettbriefstück (9)	22	140,-
P 5143	¼ R. a. grün. riesenrandiges Luxusbriefstück (27)	23	140,-
P 5144	1 R. a. blaugrün. breitrandiges Kabinettbriefstück (24)	24	160,-
P 5145	<b>III. Ausgabe</b> , 2–13. August 1889. ½ P. a. graugrün. Kabinettbriefstück (21)	25	160,-
P 5146	2 P. a. gelb. Kabinettbriefstück (17)	26	250,-
P 5147	3 P. ziegelrot, breites Kabinettbriefstück (28)	27	140,-
P 5148	4 P. a. rosa. breites Kabinettbriefstück (17)		160,-
P 5149	5 P. a. dunkelkarmin. Kabinettbriefstück (27)	29	140,-
P 5150	6 P. a. grau. Prachtbriefstück (winzige Stockpunkten) (23)	30	150,-
P 5151	7 P. a. hellblau Kabinettbriefstück, Balkenstpl. doppelt aufgesetzt (24)	31	140,-
P 5152	8 P. a. dunkelblau. Kabinettbriefstück „Witu 5. 8. 89“	32	140,-
P 5153	½ R. a. lachsfarben. Kabinettbriefstück (26)	33	140,-
P 5154	½ R. a. braun. Kabinettbriefstück (27)	34	140,-
P 5155	½ R. a. grün. feinstes Kabinettbriefstück (30)	35	140,-
P 5156	1 R. a. blaugrün. Prachtbriefstück (schwacher Druckstpl.) (22)	36	150,-
P 5157	<b>IV. Ausgabe</b> , 14.–17. August 1889. 1 P. a. gelbgrün. Kabinettbriefstück (17)	37	180,-
P 5158	2 P. a. gelb. Kabinettbriefstück (26)	38	150,-
P 5159	3 P. a. ziegelrot. Kabinettbriefstück (24)	39	160,-
P 5160	4 P. a. rosa. Kabinettbriefstück (17)	40	180,-
P 5161	5 P. a. dunkelkarmin. Kabinettbriefstück (31)	41	130,-
P 5162	6 P. a. grau. Kabinettbriefstück (35)	42	120,-
P 5163	7 P. a. hellblau. Kabinettbriefstück m. Ortsstpl. (27)	43	160,-
P 5164	8 P. a. blau. Kabinettbriefstück (23)	44	160,-
P 5165	½ R. a. lachsfarben. Kabinettbriefstück WITO 17. 8. 89	45	160,-
P 5166	½ R. a. braun. Kabinettbriefstück (23)	46	140,-
P 5167	½ R. a. grün. Kabinettbriefstück (24)	47	140,-
P 5168	1 R. a. blaugrün. Kabinettbriefstück (23)	48	160,-
P 5169	<b>V. Ausgabe</b> , 18. 8.–10. 9. 1889. 1 P. a. gelbgrün. Kabinettbriefstück (21)	49	180,-
P 5170	2 Pa. a. gelb. Kabinettbriefstück WITO 24. 8. 89 (22)	50	180,-
P 5171	3 P. a. ziegelrot. Prachtbriefstück (28)	51	140,-
P 5172	4 P. a. rosa. breites Luxusbriefstück (28)	52	140,-
P 5173	5 P. a. dunkelkarmin. Prachtbriefstück (35)	53	120,-
P 5174	6 P. a. blau. Kabinettbriefstück (24)	54	140,-
P 5175	7 P. a. hellblau. Kabinettbriefstück doppelt aufgesetzt. WITO 31. 8. 89 (22)	55	140,-
P 5176	8 P. a. blau. Kabinettbriefstück (24)	56	160,-
P 5177	½ R. a. lachsfarben. Kabinettbriefstück (24)	57	140,-

Unsere Schätzpreise sind keine Eindeutigkeiten, nur wenige Lose wurden von Einlieferern limitiert.

Los-Nr.		Mi.-Nr.	Schätzpreis DM
P 5178°	½ R. a. braun, breites Kabinettbriefstück (28)	58	△ 140,—
P 5179°	¾ R. a. grün, Kabinettbriefstück (26)	59	△ 140,—
P 5180°	1 R. a. blaugrün, Kabinettbriefstück (24)	60	△ 140,—
P 5181°	<b>Dienstmarken, I. Ausgabe 13. 7.—24. 7. 1889:</b> 1 P. a. gelbgrün, Kabinettbriefstück (17)	D 1	△ 190,—
P 5182°	2 P. a. gelb, kleines Kabinettbriefstück	D 2	△ 200,—
P 5183°	3 P. a. ziegelrot, Luxusbriefstück (22)	D 3	△ 180,—
P 5184°	4 P. a. rosa, Prachtbriefstück (unten etwas knapp) (26)	D 4	△ 150,—
P 5185°	5 P. a. dunkelkarmin, Kabinettbriefstück (23)	D 5	△ 180,—
P 5186°	6 P. a. grau, Luxusbriefstück (25)	D 6	△ 180,—
P 5187°	7 P. a. hellblau, Luxusbriefstück „WITO 16. 7. 89“ (25)	D 7	△ 180,—
P 5188°	8 P. a. dunkelblau, breites Luxusbriefstück (26)	D 8	△ 180,—
P 5189°	¼ R. a. lachsfarben, Prachtbriefstück m. spätem Stpl. „WITO 12. 8. 89“	D 9	△ 160,—
P 5190°	½ R. a. braun, Luxusbriefstück (20)	D 10	△ 180,—
P 5191°	¾ R. a. grün, Kabinettbriefstück	D 11	△ 180,—
P 5192°	1 R. a. blaugrün, Kabinettbriefstück m. „WITO 18. 8. 89“ (15)	D 12	△ 220,—
5193°	<b>II. Ausgabe 23. 7. 1889, 1 Pesa a. gelbgrün, Kabinettbriefstück (25)</b>	D 13	△ 140,—
P 5194°	2 Pesa a. bräunlichgelb, Kabinettbriefstück (12)	D 14	△ 170,—
P 5195°	3 Pesa a. ziegelrot, Kabinettbriefstück (30)	D 15	△ 140,—
F 5196°	4 Pesa rosa, kleines Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 28. 7. 89“ (31)	D 16	△ 140,—
P 5197°	5 Pesa dunkelkarmin, Kabinettbriefstück (22)	D 17	△ 140,—
P 5198°	6 Pesa a. grau, Kabinettbriefstück (34)	D 18	△ 140,—
5199°	7 Pesa hellblau, Luxusbriefstück „WITO 30. 7. 89“ (36)	D 19	△ 150,—
P 5200°	8 Pesa blau, Stpl. doppelt aufgesetzt, Kabinettbriefstück a. Leinenumschlag (32)	D 20	△ 140,—
P 5201°	¼ Rupie a. lachsfarben, Kabinettbriefstück (35)	D 21	△ 120,—
P 5202°	½ Rupie a. braun, Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 28. 7. 89“ (29)	D 22	△ 140,—
P 5203°	¾ Rupie a. grün, Kabinettbriefstück	D 23	△ 130,—
P 5204°	1 Rupie a. blaugrün, Kabinettbriefstück	D 24	△ 140,—
P 5205°	<b>III. Ausgabe 2. 8. 1889, 1 Pesa a. gelbgrün, Kabinettbriefstück (17)</b>	D 25	△ 160,—
P 5206°	2 Pesa a. gelb, Kabinettbriefstück (14)	D 26	△ 200,—
P 5207°	1 Pesa a. ziegelrot, Kabinettbriefstück (19)	D 27	△ 150,—
P 5208°	1 Pesa rosa, Prachtbriefstück (18)	D 28	△ 150,—
P 5209°	1 Pesa dunkelkarmin, Luxusbriefstück (23)	D 29	△ 140,—
P 5210°	6 Pesa grau, Prachtbriefstück (17)	D 30	△ 150,—
P 5211°	7 Pesa mattblaugrau, Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 10. 8. 89“ (23)	D 31	△ 150,—
P 5212°	8 Pesa dunkelgrau, Luxusbriefstück (14)	D 32	△ 220,—
P 5213°	¼ Rupie a. lachsfarben, Kabinettbriefstück „WITO 6. 8. 89“	D 33	△ 160,—
P 5214°	½ Rupie a. braun, Prachtbriefstück (12)	D 34	△ 200,—
P 5215°	¾ Rupie a. grün, Kabinettbriefstück	D 35	△ 250,—
P 5216°	1 Rupie a. blaugrün, Kabinettbriefstück (14)	D 36	△ 160,—
5217°	Ausstellungsreif aufgemachtes u. wissenschaftlich bearbeitetes Album der mehrfach prämierten Witu-Luxus-Sammlung		150,—
5219°	<b>1890, Brief an Clemens Denhardt in Zeitz aus Lamu (Stpl. sehr klar), frankiert m. Br. Indien in Mombasa, Liebhaberstück</b>		✉ 350,—





