

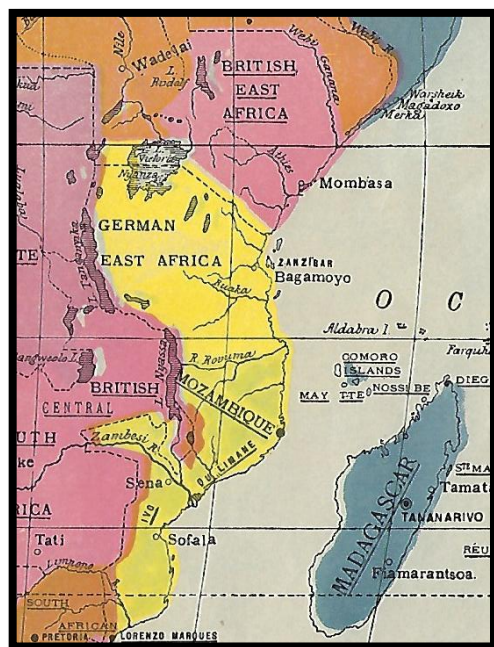
British Occupation of G.E.A.

By Tom Reyman

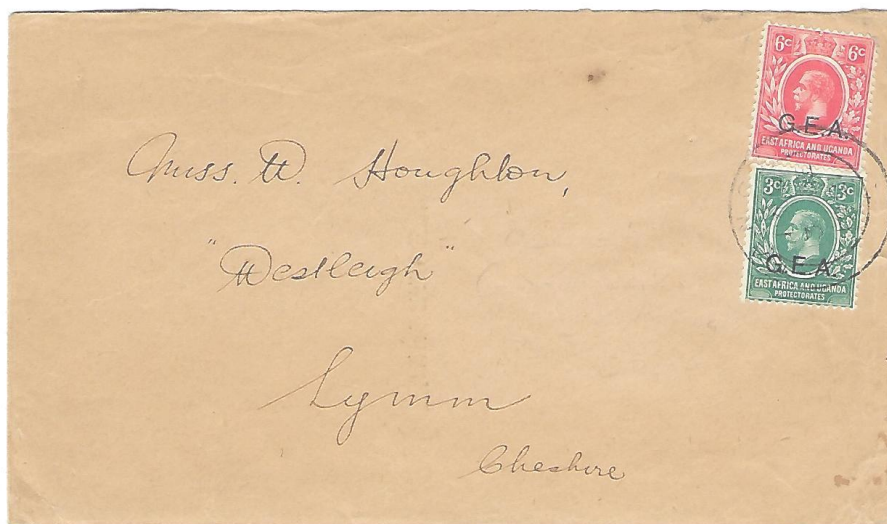
During most of the 19th Century, Africa was partitioned into colonies by the European countries of Belgium, France, Spain, Great Britain, Portugal, Italy, and Germany. The German colony of German East Africa (G.E.A.), situated on the East Coast of Africa bordering Lake Victoria, was a small, single land holding. It was bordered by the colonies of Belgium, Portugal, and Great Britain. When WW1 broke out in Europe, these colonies became the enemy of G.E.A. in Africa. There were large offensive campaigns between the combatting colonies and casualties exceeded 500,000 people, including over 300,000 deaths.

When WW1 ended, the German colonies world-wide were forfeit to the winning allies and G.E.A. was ceded to the British. Under British occupation, postage stamps of East Africa and Uganda (an adjacent British colony formerly called British East Africa) were overprinted with "G.E.A." and used in the former German East Africa from 1917 to 1921. In 1922, the territory was renamed Tanganyika and new postage stamps with that name were issued.

This cover was sent from occupied G.E.A. to Cheshire in England on December 13, 1919.



East Africa in 1896



1919 cover franked with two stamps overprinted with G.E.A.

In 1935, Tanganyika postal stamps and postal system were merged with Kenya and Uganda to become Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika (known as KUT to collectors). Another change came in December 1961 when Tanganyika separated from KUT to become an independent state. In April 1962, Zanzibar and Tanganyika formed a joint government and that was later renamed Tanzania in October of 1965.

Tom Reyman is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member whose collecting interests are U.S. FAM covers, general Air Mail covers, Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail stamps and covers, and Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) covers.