

GSWA Governor Seitz and the Campaign for the Return of Germany's 'Lost Colonies'.

Dr. Theodor Seitz, (right), was the fifth and last Governor of GSWA (German South West Africa). After its defeat in WW1 Germany was forced to accept the punitive terms of the 1919 Versailles Treaty which resulted in the loss of its European empire and all of its overseas colonies. From 1920 until 1933 Seitz led the Colonial Society's campaign for the return of Germany's 'Lost Colonies'.

Seitz (born Mannheim, 1863 - died 1949) obtained a PhD in Law at Heidelberg University. After a period in local government administration, he transferred to the German Foreign Office in 1894. He was sent to Cameroon in 1895 where he was appointed Governor in 1907. Five years after the Herero / Nama Genocide for which he was not responsible he became the last German Governor of GSWA, a post he held from 1910 - 1915 when he surrendered the colony to invading British Empire (South African) forces. Seitz tried to negotiate a last minute face-saving armistice with the Union of South Africa's warrior Prime Minister, General Louis Botha, but his pie-in-the-sky plan for a neutral German colony in northern SWA was flatly rejected.

With defeat inevitable Seitz feared the damage a propaganda 'G.R.I.' overprinting on GSWA stamps would do to Germany's long-term prestige. In April 1915 he ordered all the stamps of the German colony to be brought to him so that they could be destroyed. He was determined to avoid the same postal humiliation that befell the two Boer republics during the South African War, (1899 - 1902). On 1st May 1915 GSWA's "Chief Cashier" (Kassierer), presumably Dr Hans von Heydebreck, the senior treasury official, arrived in Grootfontein with the remaining stock of the colony's stamps. This comprised mostly the 1906 - 1914 'Yacht' issue (below), 1900 revenues (right), registration labels, etc., and some of the colony's datestamps. During the middle of May GSWA stamps worth "some 300, 000DM" (Putzel / von Schurmann) were burned and destroyed in Grootfontein.

Dr Theodor Seitz 1863 - 1949.



SA forces did not capture enough stamps to make a 'G.R.I.' over-print issue possible. They do not exist except as a figment of the imagination! What a wonderful SWA collecting area was lost!



Above and right, the 1906 - 1914 GSWA issue of 'Kaiser's Yacht' stamps. The examples overprinted 'G.R.I.' right are a fabrication of what might have been. If only! Read on.....



Among GSWA stamps destroyed in Grootfontein were high value 1906 'Yachts', like the 5 Mark greenish-black and light red (right) used and cancelled in GROOTFONTEIN '17 8 14'.



After GSWA was occupied the German colonial postal service ceased to exist. its post offices soon running under Union military control. Seitz's destruction of the GSWA stamp stock forced the Union to introduce its own stamps into SWA in July 1915. The Union stamps used in SWA before January 1923 are known as 'Forerunners'. Ironically, the first SWA issue was a 'SOUTH WEST AFRICA. ZUID-WEST AFRIKA' overprint on the Union's 1913 definitives, the so-called 'King's Heads'. It would not be until 1931 that SWA got a distinctive stamp design that was not a Union overprint.



The photo (left) shows the Mayor of Windhuk surrendering the town to General Botha. As a civilian the Mayor remained free but subject to military law. It is not known what happened to Seitz after he surrendered with German forces at Korab on 9th July 1915. In wartime it is customary to offer senior captured civil servants and military officers the comforts of parole. The difference between parole and internment is the degree of restriction. Seitz would have been offered the terms of parole - do not to attempt to escape or resume fighting for Germany - or be interned in a POW camp behind barbed wire with no freedom of movement. He would have been expected to accept parole. He almost certainly did. The cachet (below) is from the Officers' POW Camp in Swakopmund.

Tony Howgrave-Graham, a leading authority on German SWA WW1 postal history, says *"both Wikipedia and SA History say that Seitz was interned until 1919. I don't believe it. Internment is significantly different to parole. Internment suggests a POW camp and Seitz wasn't in any of these. Parole is more like house arrest though laxer and with permission you could travel. Seitz is on the list of parolees with "outstanding" by his name. I don't know exactly what this means - possibly he hadn't signed the "I promise to be a good boy" document. I guess he spent the war somewhere comfortable. It's strange but no-one seems to know where. I've never seen any of his correspondence."*



Once the war was officially over in 1919 Seitz was quickly repatriated to Germany, a country in a profound post-war crisis. The Kaiser had abdicated, the Empire had fallen, a new democracy, the Weimar Republic, was struggling to hold the centre against revolutionaries and monarchists. Germany's military was limited and its industry was crippled by the Treaty of Versailles. The payment of war reparations was financially devastating. WW1's humiliating defeat and the loss of European territories and overseas colonies was explained by the growth of a socially fracturing *"stab-in-the-back"* betrayal myth that blamed Jews and Communists. Added to this was inflation. As the government printed more money it caused a hyper-inflation spiral. An intense feeling of national breakdown greeted Seitz on his arrival back on German soil. Some postcards from the immediate post-WWI period in Germany reflect the extreme political, social, and territorial disruption of the era. A postcard of 1919, (left), shows a map stating *"Lands forsaken - but not forgotten"*. It was the start of the movement to reclaim German pride and territory. A Map (page 4) of 1928 shows the extent of lost 'Volk' and land.

The loss of historic imperial German territory in Europe was as devastating to the proud German psyche as financial reparations were to its prudent and resentful pocket. East Prussia became a geographically isolated exclave cut off from the rest of Germany by a narrow Polish Corridor. Danzig, now a 'Free City' was surrounded by Poland. Alsace-Lorraine went to France, Northern Schleswig to Denmark; Eupen-Malmedy to Belgium; (continued page 4)

Von Lettow-Vorbeck: The Only German General to Return Home Undefeated.



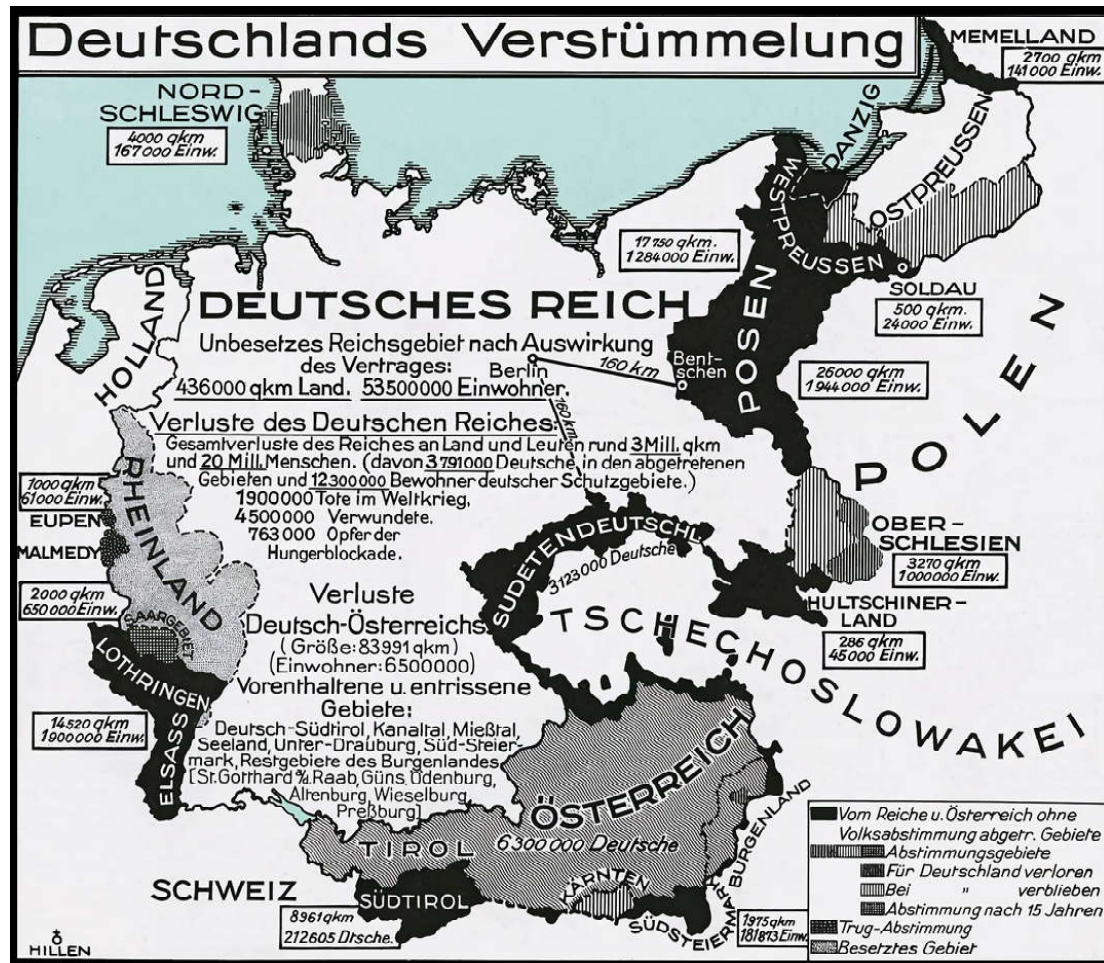
General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck.

Circa 1936. Frontspiece. (Deutschland Kolonien, Hinz & Kuster AG).

By WWI's end von Lettow-Vorbeck was Germany's undefeated 'Lion of Africa'.

Colonel (later General) Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck was the resourceful commander of a small German force of about 14,000 men (3,000 German Schutztruppe and 11,000 native African askaris) in GEA (German East Africa). He served in GSWA from 1904 - 1907 during the Herero War where he gained invaluable experience in bush fighting. He was appointed military commander of GEA in 1914. He repelled a British landing at Tanga in November 1914, the greatest German victory of WWI in Africa. Resorting to guerilla warfare, he hoped to influence the war in Europe by pinning down some 300,000 British (including South African, Rhodesian and Indian), Belgian and Portuguese troops. By war's end, he remained undefeated with a force of 1,200 still in the field. He returned home to a hero's welcome in Germany in March 1919.

The Loss of European Empire and Volk



1928. Map. "The Dismemberment of Germany". Commissioned by the government for school books. It depicts German and Austrian territorial and population losses under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

cont..... the Hultschin to Czechoslovakia and the Memel to Lithuania. Parts of West Prussia and Upper Silesia went to Poland. The coal-rich Saar Basin was placed under the control of the League of Nations in order to guarantee the payment of reparations to France for Germany's destruction of its coal mines. It would not be returned to Germany until 1935.

The misleading *stab-in-the-back* betrayal blamed Jews and Communists on the Home Front for Germany's defeat in the trenches. Despite the fact that some 100,000 Jews had served in the German armed forces during WW1, many with distinction, many Germans accepted this untruth. One man who knew it was a spurious and tendentious lie was Adolf Hitler, the Nazi Party leader. He had served under two Jewish commanders on the Western Front, one of whom recommended him for an Iron Cross First Class, an unusual decoration for a mere corporal. It was an award which Hitler was inordinately proud of and which he would die wearing. Hitler's anti-semitism grew virulent only after WW1 and not from negative personal experiences of Jewish soldiers during it. He retained a lingering personal regard for the two Jewish officers with whom he had served. Given his guiding hand in the Holocaust, Hitler surprisingly protected both men from the worst of his Nazi persecution after he came to power, even allowing one to emigrate to the USA.

In 1920 Seitz was elected President of the German Colonial Society in Berlin which had been founded in 1887 during the 'Scramble for Africa' that followed the Berlin Conference of 1885. In the late 19th c. the Colonial Society's was Imperial

Germany's main lobbying organisation for the promotion of an overseas empire. Its main goal was to promote an expansionist German colonial policy that supported settlers, businesses and missions in the colonies. It used education (posters, lectures, exhibitions) to create public awareness while at the same time lobbying politicians and the Kaiser's government. It organised colonial fairs and school programs with a 'German superiority' racial ideology and a 'civilizing mission' narrative. Before WW1, the Society was hugely influential with close ties to business, the church and the military. In 1914 on the eve of WW1 it had about 15,000 members. In 1916 in the middle of WW1 when Germany had lost all its colonies but GEA, the Colonial Society busied itself planning for a colonial empire in Africa, the so-called 'Deutsch-Mittelafrika'. In the Colonial Society's defence, Germany at this time still had a realistic chance of winning the war in Europe. However, in 1919, the reality for the Colonial Society was that of humiliating defeat and the loss of empire and all its colonies.

Overprinting German stamps: New Territories, Currency and Inflation



Germania stamps overprinted 'Danzig'.

Danzig was the capital of the province of West Prussia within the Kingdom of Prussia from 1815 - 1920. Under the Treaty of Versailles, 1920 - 1939, it became the Free City of Danzig, a semi-autonomous city-state separated from Germany to provide Poland with access to the sea. It was a shocking and humiliating loss for imperial Germany's nationalists. In 1939, after conquering Poland, Danzig was annexed by Nazi Germany and briefly made part of the Reichsgau Danzig-West Prussia.

Almost immediately following the end of WW1 Germany began to experience runaway inflation. Substantial price increases occurred from November 1918 through to June 1922. This initial post-war inflation would later spiral into true hyperinflation in mid-1922 and reach a peak in November 1923 when the currency was finally stabilised with the introduction of the new Rentenmark, a currency in limited supply backed by land and industrial bonds. By August 1924 the Reichsmark was returned and the economy finally stabilised with the backing of American loans. In the course of two years the cost of posting a letter in Germany had gone from a few pfennigs to trillions of marks!



1922. The First Stage of Postal Inflation. 16 Dm added to pre-printed 10 Dm Postal Stationery Card.

The post-war inflation that began in 1918 was a result of the war having been financed with debt rather than taxes. This practice continued due to the need to pay reparations and make social payments. The situation worsened dramatically in mid 1922 when Germany failed to meet its reparation payments as set out by the Treaty of Versailles. This caused the exchange rate value of the German Mark to fall from 320 per US Dollar in early 1922 to 7,400 per Dollar by December 1922. Germany's failure to pay reparations resulted in France and Belgium occupying the Ruhr in January 1923 in order to extract raw materials like coal and steel as part-payment.



The Weimar government instructed German workers, civil servants and railway employees in the Ruhr to refuse orders from the French and Belgian occupiers. Thus began a campaign of passive resistance sponsored by the German government. It became a General Strike that halted the production coal and steel for the French and Belgians but which also crippled the German economy. To make matters worse the German government began printing money to pay its striking Ruhr workers. This only made a bad inflationary situation worse. The German currency collapsed with 4.2 trillion Marks being worth one US dollar. The life-savings of most Germans disappeared.

1923. Cover. Rampant Inflation. 4.75million Dm postage FRANKFURT '9 10 23' to LONDON.
(This & previous cover courtesy of Kenny Napier Auctions. Email: kenny.napier@mweb.co.za)

When the Rentenmark, a new, limited currency, was introduced by the government in November 1923, Because Germany had no gold, the Rentenmark was backed by a mortgage on industrial and agricultural land, not worthless paper marks. Once a deal was struck with the Americans, the Dawes Plan of 1924, the government stopped paying German workers in the Ruhr to strike and the Reichsbank was forbidden from printing further paper currency to finance government debt. The Americans crucial financial support stabilised the new currency and allowed the re-introduction of the Reichsmark. By August 1924, the Reichsmark had returned and the German economy never looked back.

The five years after the end of the war were a living hell for most ordinary Germans. In 1924, following the hyperinflation peak, the political opinions of the German people were defined by the inflation trauma. It had left them as 'inflation victims', distrustful of democratic institutions, open to extremism of the left or right and willing to break faith with established parties and orthodoxies. The middle class felt particularly betrayed and disenfranchised. In the countryside farmers demanded agrarian reforms. Unifying this disillusionment was a strong countrywide resentment toward bankers, speculators, and the government who were blamed for the crisis. This view became entrenched, one often accompanied by anti-Semitic sentiment. Many blamed Jewish financiers for the crisis, as did both the Nazis and the communists.



Up, up and away! German inflation goes Hyper!

German Colonies are Formally Forfeited

GSWA became a South African mandated territory in 1919; GEA went to Britain as Tanganyika; Rwanda and Burundi went to Belgium; Kamerun was partitioned between France and Britain. German Togoland was partitioned in 1914 with most of its territory going to French Togo, less to Britain's Gold Coast. German New Guinea was divided with Australia administering its eastern end (Kaiser-Wilhelmsland) as the Territory of New Guinea. Many of Germany's Pacific islands were given to Japan or became League of Nations mandates administered by Britain, New Zealand and or Australia. Germany's Kiautschou Bay concession in China had been captured by Japan during WW. Its award to Japan led to large-scale Chinese protests and an international dispute. Kiautschou was returned to China in 1922 but was seized again by Japan during the Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937 - 1945, the precursor to Asia's WW2. With German Samoa transferred to New Zealand, the Colonial Society was left with nothing but an echoing, empty building in Berlin.

Thus deprived of its purpose the Colonial Society became a political pressure group arguing for the return of German colonies until dissolved in 1936. Seitz was elected to lead this hollowed-out cause because he was a lawyer and an ex-Governor with first-hand experience of ruling colonies. His supporters saw him as a respected authority, one who argued that Germany had ruled efficiently and justly. As President and later Honorary President of the Colonial Society (1920 - 1936), Seitz would energetically campaign for the return of Germany's lost colonies. He published defenses of German colonial rule and promoted the idea that Germany's global status depended on regaining its lost colonies. He wrote a colonial history, 'On the Rise and Fall of German Colonial Power', (above right) and supported the issue of various propaganda 'Mourning Stamp' labels from 1923 on, (below).



Germany's defeat was underlined by its stamps being overprinted with the names of new European territories now 'free' of German influence. These and inflation overprints appear most often on "Germania" stamps. Each of these distinct philatelic overprint issues reveals the extent of Germany's defeat in Europe in WW1 and the Treaty of Versailles' negative impact on post-war German self-determination. They remain a philatelic reminder of Germany's surrender and the anarchy and chaos that followed in the streets of the Weimar Republic as communists and fascists fought for control of the country's political future. Most of these new territories would be short-lived (and German re-occupation even shorter!). The loss of Germany's wider European empire infuriated Hitler who swore revenge as a matter of German honour and pride. His priority was the restoration of Germany as the leading European power with reclaimed and expanded territorial integrity. To achieve this the lost overseas colonies would have to wait.



Seitz's movement to regain Germany's overseas colonies was a popular one that appealed to many Germans, even those tired of war. His promotion of the twin themes of restoring German pride and national renewal through colonial achievement enjoyed wide support. The Nazis went along with Seitz and the Colonial Society because its patriotic activities sustained Hitler's ambition to restore Germany to what he saw as its rightful leadership role in and over Europe. What the Nazi leader did not publicly state to any but his inner circle was that the return of Germany's lost overseas colonies was of much less importance than the goal of achieving 'Lebensraum', (German. 'living space'), in Eastern Europe. Anyone who had read Hitler's 1925 autobiography, "Mein Kampf", (German. My Struggle), knew that he was wary of demanding the return of Germany's lost colonies too soon. It was not something he could deliver in the short-term. He believed in patience and waiting for the right moment, one that would come after a future war had been won. He denounced the colonial agenda as "*silly chatter without thought of practicality*". He had a point.



During the years of the Weimar Republic (1919 -1933), the Colonial Society acted as a patriotic propaganda organisation rooted in Germany's defeat and the loss of its overseas colonies. As it assumed a presence in nationalist politics it inevitably and increasingly associated with right-wing nationalists and the anti-Versailles movements. During this troubled time German Republicans within the Weimar Republic began to prove themselves unable to physically and politically match the paramilitary Free Corps and Hitler's growing Nazi (National Socialist Democratic Workers' Party) movement. Perhaps Seitz grew wise to Hitler's long game and began to suspect he was wasting his time? Perhaps rubbing shoulders with Nazis was too much and too ugly for him. Seitz is not recorded as joining the Nazi Party. In 1930 he stepped down from his duties as President of the Colonial Society to become its less involved Honorary President.

“Never Forget! Commemorative stamps in Mourning for the 19 Territories stolen from Germany”



In 1933 Hitler became German Chancellor, later assuming complete rule after President Hindenberg's death. Many Germans now expected Hitler's lip-service to the Colonial Society to bear fruit. The Nazis had tolerated and encouraged the colonial groups whose rhetoric fitted their ideas of colonial expansion and racial superiority. The cry for the return of Germany's colonies now became louder and more organised. The Colonial Society was not immediately affected by the Nazi seizure of power but its days were numbered. In 1933 Hitler's established the RKB (Reichskolonialbund or Reich Colonial League) led by General Franz von Epp, a personal friend of Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels. As a result, the German post office issued a set of four 'Coloniser' stamps in 1934 celebrating 50 years of African colonial history (right). These show Adolf Luderitz (GSWA), Gustav Nachtigal, (Togo and Kamerun), Carl Peters and Heinrich von Wissmann, (both GEA). All four were key German figures in the late 19th-century 'Scramble for Africa'.



In 1936 the Colonial Society achieved a front-page hit in the New York Times (10th February) with an article that trumpeted *"GERMANY INSISTS SHE OWNS COLONIES LOST IN WORLD WAR"*. Perhaps the stridency of this piece strained the relationship between the Nazis and the Colonial Society to breaking point. The Nazis dissolved the Colonial Society in 1936 and transferred its functions to the state-controlled RKB which continued its program to promote the return of the lost colonies. Goebbels began an intense domestic campaign in which Dr. Heinrich Schnee, former Governor of GEA and a new Nazi convert, was praised as the *"intrepid defender of German colonial"*



1938 Cover: '25 6 38' to ZURICH '27 VI 36'.

Untied RKB era label "How much longer without colonies?"

The label was affixed to the cover after the dissolution of the Colonial Society in 1936.

claims". The Nazis scheduled "no fewer than 341 lectures at universities and high schools in Germany and Austria.... Since the Summer of 1934 no fewer than forty-one German doctorate theses have had colonies as their subject". The politics of the lost colonies both domestic and foreign now came under the authority of Joachim von Ribbentrop, the Foreign Minister. Hitler told the pro-colony lobby what they wanted to hear but never wavered from his *"continental concentration"* on 'Lebensraum'. Hitler remained steadfast in directing Germany to find new land in the Russian East.

The Berlin-Pankow Colonial Postage Stamp Show: 9 - 10 January 1937

One way in which the RKB kept the memory of the 'Lost Colonies' alive was to hold a Colonial Postage Stamp Show. The two postcards below were issued to advertise the Show in Pankow, Berlin, to stamp collectors.



The top card has a pre-printed 6Rpf green Hindenburg Medallion stamp while the lower one has a 5Rpf bright green Luftpost Airmail stamp.

1937. 2 x Postcards. Colonial Postmark Show. Berlin - Pankow 9 - 10 1 1937.
Cancelled with Commemorative Schutztruppe postmark, possibly GSWA.



Both have been cancelled with a special postmark showing a typical colonial-era Schutztruppe and fort. This was only used at the show to cancel these postcards.



Maps of Lost German Colonial Territories!



Deutsche Kolonial- Bilder Der Berliner Morgernpost

German Colonial
Images from the
Berliner Morning Post

These are sponsored
collectible paper
sheetlets that came
with the purchase of
the newspaper.

Bild / Image 14: Togo
12 April 1941

“The African explorer
Gustav Nachtigal
helped raise the German
flag in Togo.

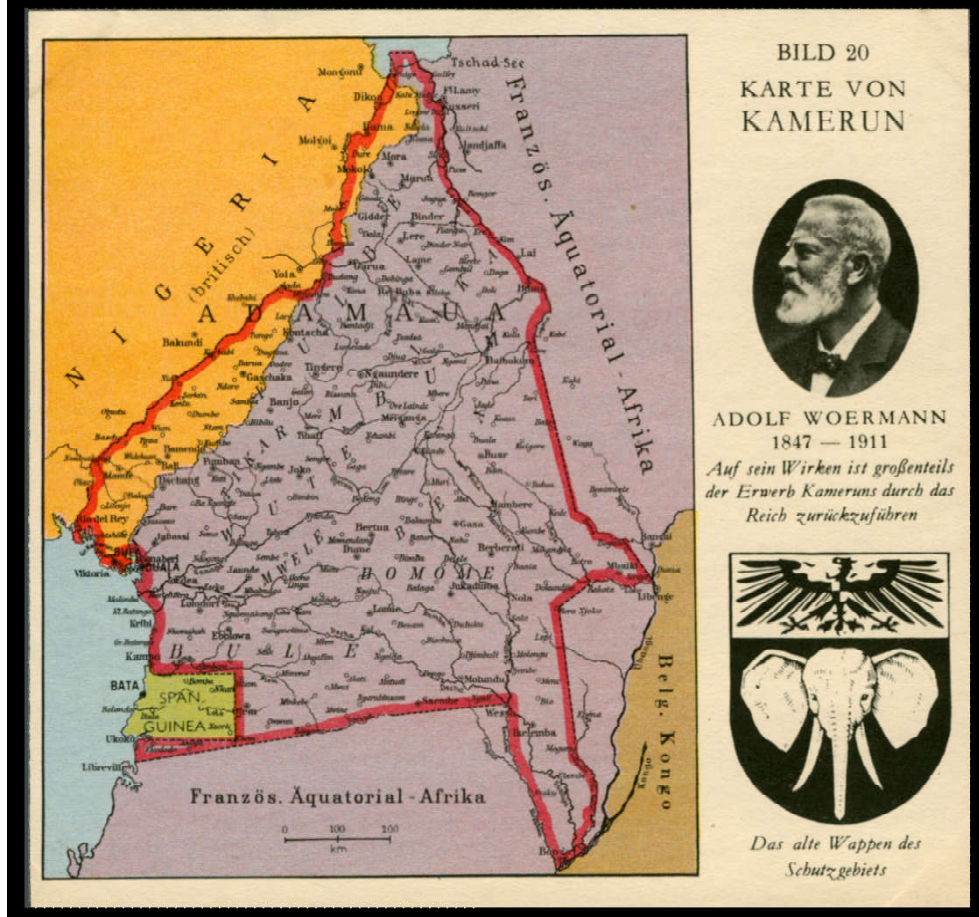
The old coat of arms of
the "model colony".

Bild / Image 20:
Karte von Kamerun
24 May 1941

“Adolf Woermann
1847- 1911
The acquisition of
Kamerun by the Empire
can largely be
attributed to his
actions.

The old coat of arms of
the protected area”.

This map might be
useful to anyone
creating a display.
Please feel free to
download the PDF file
or copy it. If the
resolution is not good
enough for your needs,
email the SAPC
requesting a higher
resolution image.



Email:
editor

@southafricanphilately
club.com

Deutsche Kolonial-Bilder Der Berliner Morgernpost

German Colonial
Images from the
Berliner Morning Post

These are sponsored
collectible paper
sheetlets that came
with the purchase of
the newspaper.

Bild / Image 6 GSWA
9 February 1941.

“Since 1920, German
South West Africa has
been administered as a
League of Nations
mandate by the South
African Union”.

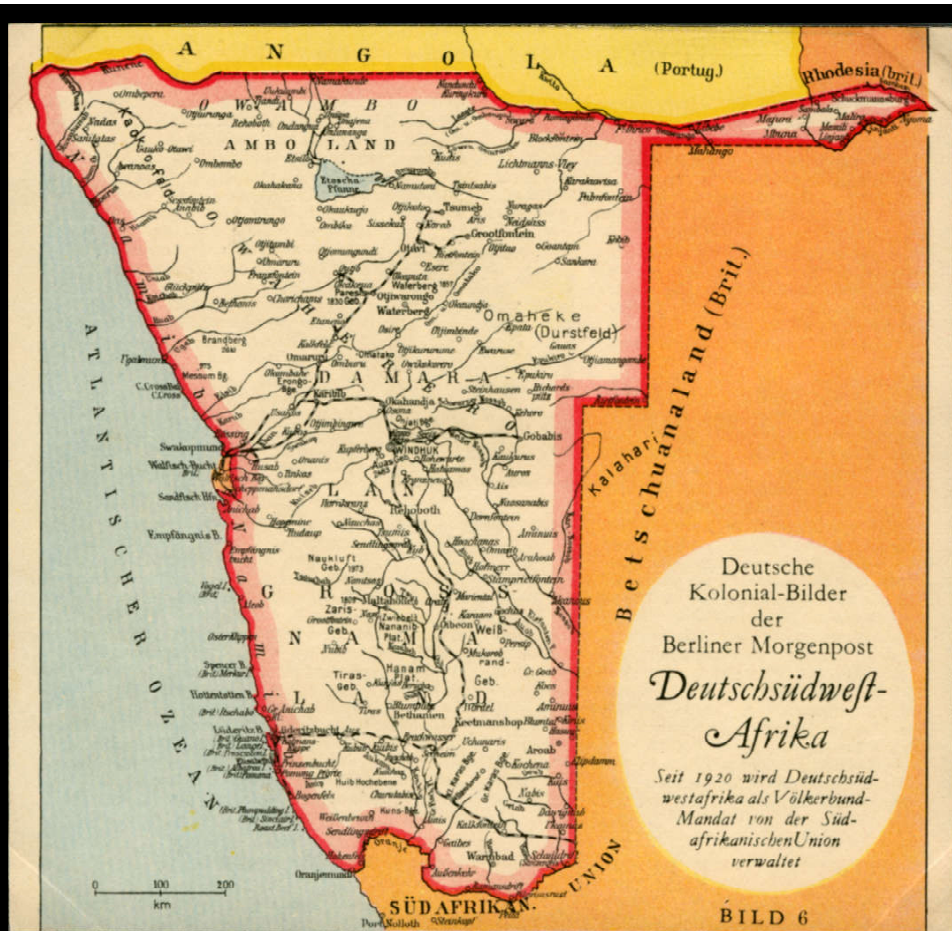


Bild / Imag 29 GEA.
20 July 1941.

This map might be
useful to anyone
creating a display.
Please feel free to
download the PDF file
or copy it. If the
resolution is not good
enough for your needs,
email the SAPC
requesting a higher
resolution image.

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DEUTSCH-SÜDWESTAFRIKA

Portugiesen landeten im 15. Jahrhundert in Südwestafrika in der Gegend des heutigen Kap Groß (Kreuzkap) und nahmen das Land in Besitz. Zum Zeichen dafür errichteten sie eine steinerne Säule, die heute im Museum für Meereskunde zu Berlin aufbewahrt wird. Erst rund dreihundert Jahre später gelangten Nachrichten in die holländische Kapkolonie, daß in dem Gebiet nördlich des Dranjesflusses Gold und Kupfer gefunden seien, und daß weit im Norden Schwarze mit großen Viehherden wohnen sollten. Die Nachforschungen, die man anstellte, blieben ziemlich erfolglos. Es war nichts Rechtes zu holen, und alle weiteren Erkundungen wurden der „großen Dürre“ wegen abgebrochen. Im Jahre 1844 ließ sich die „Rheinische Missionsgesellschaft“ unter den im Hinterland der Küste wohnenden Eingeborenen nieder, begann, das Land langsam zu erschließen, und wurde nach und nach zu einer einflussreichen Handelsgesellschaft. Damit schien Südwestafrika der inzwischen (1815) englisch gewordenen Kapkolonie und den Engländern ein „Geschaft“ zu versprechen. Die englische Regierung sandte eine kleine Flotte nach Südwestafrika und nahm 1878 die Balfischbucht in Besitz. Es wurde dort ein Magistrat eingesetzt, der von den Eingeborenen Steuern forderte. Als sich infolgedessen allerlei Schwierigkeiten ergaben, überließ England kurzerhand die Balfischbucht der Kapregierung.

Im Jahre 1882 faßte nun der Bremer Großkaufmann Franz Adolf Lüderitz den Plan, in Südwestafrika im Interessengebiet der rheinischen Missionstätigkeit eine Zweigniederlassung zu erwerben. Bevor er jedoch an die Ausführung seines Vorhabens ging, fragte er beim Auswärtigen Amt in Berlin an, ob er hierbei wohl auf den Schutz des Reiches rechnen könne, und erhielt diese Zusage, falls es ihm gelänge, einen Hafen

zu erwerben, auf den keine andre Nation Rechtsanspruch hätte. Daraufhin sandte Lüderitz eine kleine Expedition über Kapstadt nach der Bucht von Angra Pequena, wo zunächst eine Faktorei errichtet wurde. Von hier aus zog die Expedition landeinwärts zur Missionsstation Bethanien und schloß dort mit dem Häuptling des Gebiets in aller Form einen rechtsgültigen Kaufvertrag über den Erwerb von etwa fünf Quadratmeilen Landes um die Bucht von Angra Pequena herum. Zu Ende des Jahres gelang es, von Stammschäpplingen den ganzen 20 Meilen breiten Küstenstreich von 26 Grad südlicher Breite bis zum Dranjesfluß zu erwerben. Das ganze Gebiet war etwa so groß wie Württemberg, Baden und Elsaß-Lothringen zusammen. Als die Kunde hiervon nach Kapstadt gelangte, begann sich jener giftige Handelsneid der Engländer zu regen, der hinfort alle kolonialen Unternehmungen Deutschlands begleiten sollte. Den scheinigen Einwänden gegen die Rechtmäßigkeit der Lüderitzschen Erwerbung machte ein Telegramm Bismarcks vom 24. April 1884 an den deutschen Konsul

in Kapstadt ein Ende. „Sie wollen amtlich erklären, daß Herr Lüderitz und seine Niederlassungen unter dem Schutze des Reiches stehen.“ Das ist die „Geburtsurkunde“ des Schutzgebietes Deutsch-Südwestafrika und damit der deutschen Kolonisation in Afrika überhaupt. Die Korvetten „Leipzig“ und „Elisabeth“ hielten am 7. August 1884 die deutsche Flagge und landeten Truppen im „Lüderitzland“, wie dieses Kernstück der Kolonie zunächst hieß. Zwei Jahre später wurde die Nordgrenze des Schutzgebietes (gegen Angola) mit Portugal vereinbart, 1890 die Grenze gegen englisches Gebiet (Kapland). Lüderitz selbst, die treibende Kraft für den Erwerb, ertrank 1886 bei der Erforschung der Mündung des Dranjesflusses.



Franz Adolf Lüderitz
1834 — 1886

QUITTUNG DER BERLINER MORGENPOST ÜBER 50 PFENNIG

6. Woche vom 9. Februar bis 15. Februar 1941. Quittungen, in denen Preis oder Bezugszeit geändert ist, sind ungültig

KARL PETERS ERWIRBT DEUTSCH-OSTAFRIKA

Afrika ist lange Jahrhunderte hindurch der Kulturmenschen ein mit sieben Siegeln verschlossenes Buch gewesen. Zwar hatte schon das Altertum von riesigen Seen im Innern und dem fabelhaften „Mondgebirge“ zu erzählen gewußt, und die Seefahrer-Nationen des Mittelalters hatten sich mit den angeblich unermesslichen Schätzen dieses Landes beschäftigt, auch Karten voll seltsamer Namen davon gezeichnet. Dann hatten sich die Portugiesen im 15., die Araber im 17. Jahrhundert an den Küsten niedergelassen, waren aber nicht weiter ins Innere gedrungen. Erst 1852 kam durch zwei Württemberger zuverlässigere Kunde von gewaltigen innerafrikanischen Seen, von schneebedeckten Bergen nach Europa — und damit war der Anstoß zur erdkundlichen Erforschung von Ostafrika gegeben.

Dieses noch recht unbekannte, aber verheißungsvolle Gebiet wählte sich im Jahre 1884 der damals siebenundwanzigjährige Dr. Karl Peters für seine kühnen kolonialen Pläne aus. Peters hatte während eines mehrjährigen Aufenthaltes in England koloniale Anschauungsweise und Politik, z. B. eines Cecil Rhodes, kennengelernt und den Entschluß gefaßt — wie die Engländer in Südafrika — für Deutschland in Ostafrika ein Kolonialreich zu schaffen. Er gründete zu diesem Zwecke eine „Gesellschaft für deutsche Kolonisation“ und brach in diesem Auftrag im Oktober 1884 mit wenigen Begleitern nach Ostafrika auf. Um die argwöhnischen Engländer nicht aufmerksam zu machen, schifften sich die Teilnehmer der Expedition unter fremden Namen in Triest als Deckpassagiere nach Sansibar ein und er-

reichten von hier aus die der Insel gegenüberliegende Küste Ostafrikas. Noch im Dezember des Jahres gelang es Peters, mit den Oberhäuptlingen dieses Küstenstriches Verträge abzuschließen, nach denen diese Häuptlinge ihre Gebiete (Ufuguba, Nguru, Ukami und Usagara) mit allen Hoheitsrechten an die von Peters vertretene Gesellschaft abtraten und sich unter deutschen Schutz stellten. Peters kehrte bald darauf nach Deutschland zurück und fand bei Bismarck, der anfänglich dem Plane zustimmen geögert hatte, volles Entgegenkommen. — Am 27. Februar 1885 erwirkte der Kanzler von Kaiser Wilhelm I. jenen ersten kaiserlichen Schutzbrief, der bezeugte, daß die von der „Deutsch-Ostafrikanischen Gesellschaft Peters und Genossen“ erworbenen Landgebiete Ostafrikas unter der Obhut des Deutschen Reiches ständen.

Auf Englands Verreiben (!) protestierte jetzt der völlig unter britischem Einfluß stehende Sultan von Sansibar gegen den Schutzbrief, erkannte aber, als ein deutsches Geschwader vor Sansibar erschien, den deutschen Rechts-Anspruch ohne weiteres an, ja, er versapdete sogar wenig später ausdrücklich die Küste mit den Häfen Darassalam und Pangani an die deutsche Gesellschaft. Einen Araber-Aufstand konnte Hermann Wissmann 1889/91 niederschlagen, wodurch er die deutsche Herrschaft endgültig sicherte. Ein Abkommen Deutschlands mit England vom 1. Juli 1890 legte dann die Grenze des deutschen Machtbereichs in Ostafrika im wesentlichen fest, und am 1. Januar 1891 wurde in Darassalam die deutsche Flagge gehißt: ein großer Teil Ostafrikas war damit deutsche Kolonie geworden.



Karl Peters
1856 — 1918

QUITTUNG DER BERLINER MORGENPOST ÜBER 50 PFENNIG

29. Woche vom 20. Juli bis 26. Juli 1941. Quittungen, in denen Preis oder Bezugszeit geändert ist, sind ungültig

Deutsche Kolonial- Bilder Der Berliner Morgernpost

German Colonial Images from the Berliner Morning Post

These are RKB sponsored collectible paper sheetlets that came with the purchase of the newspaper.

Bild / Image 6 GSWA
9 February 1941.

Bild / Imag 29 GEA.
20 July 1941.

Karl Peter Erwirbt Deutsch-Ost Afrika

Karl Peter acquires German East Africa

This map might be useful to anyone creating a display. Please feel free to download the PDF file or copy it. If the resolution is not good enough for your needs, email the SAPC requesting a higher resolution image.

Email:
editor
@southafricanphilately
club.com

Labels of GSWA - Defeat of the Hereros and Nama.
(Eckstein Halpaus GmbH, Dresden 1938.)

Die Zeit von 1870-1914

10

Nr.
247



Bei Otaharui. 3. April 1904.
(Gemälde von Carl Beder.)

Die Nachhut der Abteilung von Glasenapp wurde während des Herero-Aufstandes in Deutsch-Südwestafrika von einer großen Übermacht berittener Hereros umfassen angegriffen. Mitten im Regengüssen überbrachte ein deutscher Melbereiter den Befehl, kämpfend auf die Hauptabteilung zurückzugehen.

Nr.
248



Siegreicher Bajonetangriff der Kompanie Epp bei Onganjira. 9. April 1904.
(Gemälde von Carl Beder.)

Als Oberleutnant Epp auf einem Hügel zur Erkundung vorausritt, wurde er samt seiner Kompanie von einem Geschosshagel überschüttet. Die deutschen Reiter sprangen vom Pferd und stürmten mit aufgeflossenen Bajonetten auf die Hereros ein.

Nr.
249



Bei Hartebestmünd. 24. Oktober 1905.
(Gemälde von Carl Beder.)

Nach Niedertämpfung der Hereros erhoben sich im Süden Deutsch-Südwestafrikas die Hottentotten. Im Gefecht bei Hartebestmünd, einem der schwersten und verlustreichsten des Feldzuges, wurden die Hottentotten durch die mit Artillerie versehene Abteilung des Hauptmanns von Koppy in die Dranje-Berge geworfen.

Nr.
250



Hendrik Witbois tödliche Verwundung im Gefecht bei Fahlgras. 29. Oktober 1905.
(Gemälde von Carl Beder.)

Im Sterben sagte er: „Meine Kinder sollen jetzt Ruhe haben.“ Mit dem Tod des alten Häuptlings brach der Hottentottenaufstand, den er entfesselt hatte, zusammen. Hendrik Witbois war der gefährlichste Gegner der deutschen Schutztruppe.

Nr.
251



Flucht der Hottentotten über den Dranje in englisches Gebiet. 16. November 1905.
(Gemälde von Carl Beder.)

Eine deutsche berittene Abteilung überraschte den Gegner und trieb ihn unter großen Verlusten und Zurücklassung seines Viehs über den Grenzfluß. Die englische Grenzpolizei nahm die mit erbeuteten deutschen Uniformstücken bekleideten Hottentotten gefangen.

Nr.
252



Auf der Verfolgung der Simon-Copper-Hottentotten in der Wüste Kalahari. 16. März 1906.
(Gemälde von Carl Beder.)

Obgleich die Aufstände der Jahre 1904-1906 erloschen waren, hielten sich noch einzelne Banden in der Kalahari. Eine Kamelreiter-Abteilung unter Hauptmann von Erdert griff nach heroischem Durstmarsch Simon Copper an und vernichtete die letzten Auführer.

Images of 'German' SWA Under Union of SA Control



Deutsche Kolonial- Bilder Der Berliner Morgernpost

German Colonial Images from the Berliner Morning Post

These are sponsored collectible paper sheetlets that came with the purchase of the newspaper.

Bild / Image 12 GSWA
23 March 1941.

This is captioned on the reverse:
"Windhuk, Die Stadt Der Deutschen".
(The City of the

Germans). This shows a busy street scene in Windhoek which the Morning Post refers to as 'Windhuk', the old German spelling. The Nama may disagree. Their name 'Windhoek' preceded the arrival of the Germans.

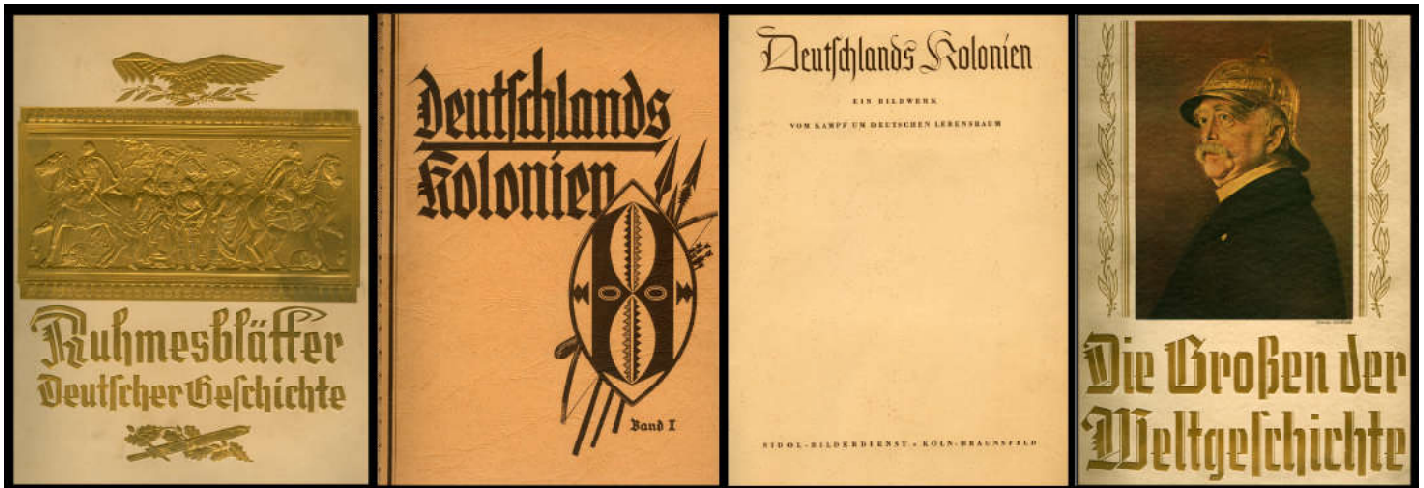
Bild / Image 9 GSWA
2 March 1941.

This is captioned on the reverse:
"Herero, Ovambo and Bergdamara".

This image shows a group of women from three Nambian tribes, Herero, Ovambo and Damara. Only some 20% of the Herero tribe escaped the genocide perpetrated on them by General Lothar von Trotha in 1904.



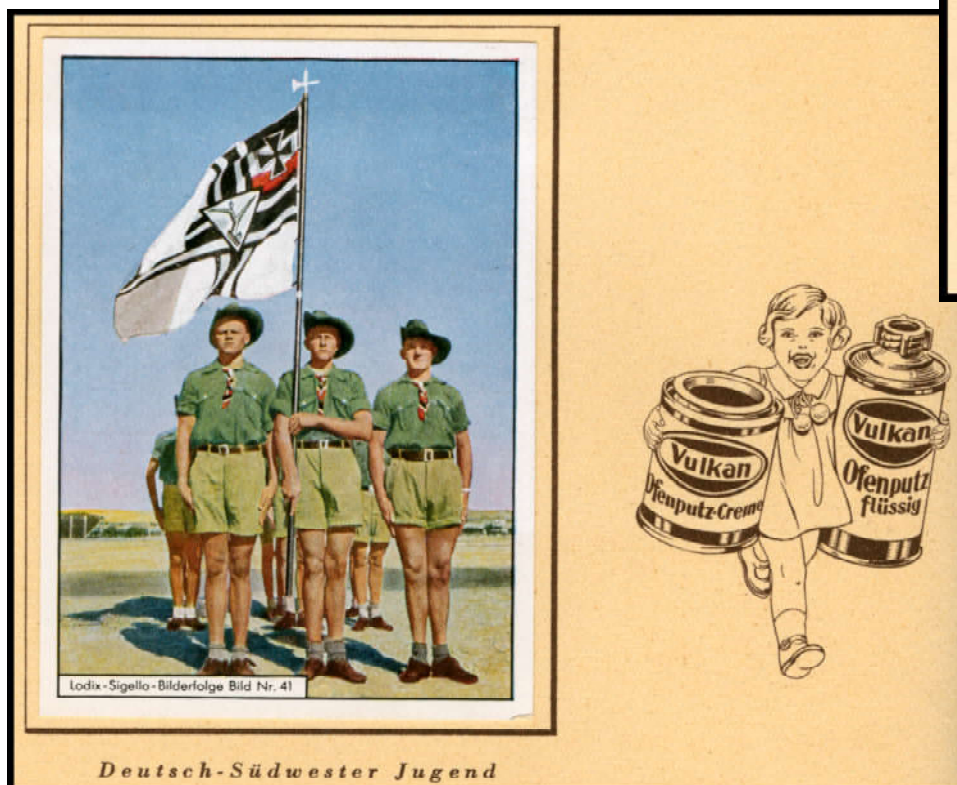
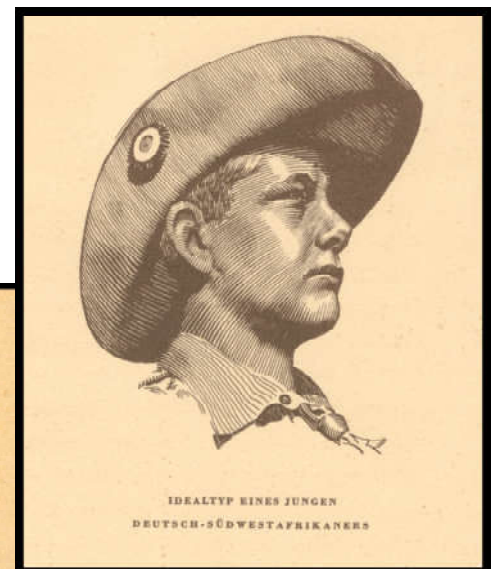
Some Books into which Collected Labels and Cards were Placed.



1938 - 1941. Privately books published to encourage interest in a Nazi view of German and colonial history.

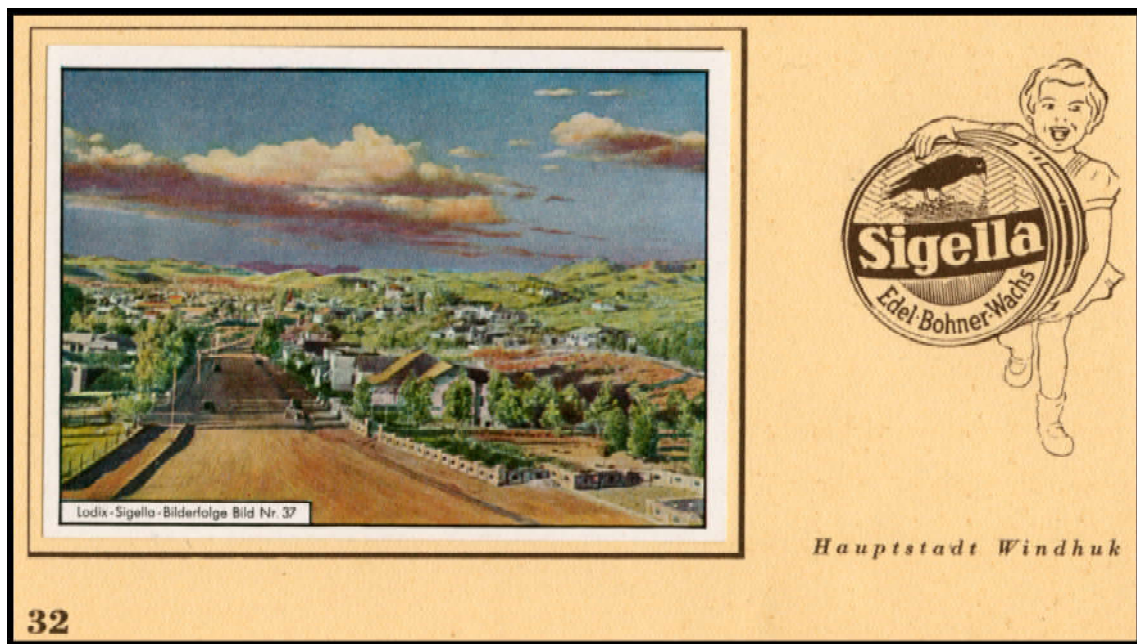
With the colonial lobby pointing to "toiling Italian soldiers seeking to carve out a new colonial empire for Italy in Ethiopia", the Nazis needed to do something. They gave the RKB a practical agenda geared to their long-term strategies and talked up the return of the colonies but did little in practice. Between 1937 and 1942 the RKB enjoyed its greatest public support. Fueled by wartime enthusiasm and propaganda, the RKB enjoyed peak membership of some 2m in 1941. It organised state-sponsored philatelic shows in various cities of the Greater Reich including Berlin, Hanover, Vienna, Dresden, Chemnitz, Aussig and Bremen during this time. These shows featured both stamp collecting and commercial card / label collecting that could be stuck into privately manufactured books. The cards and labels show the commercial benefits of the colonies and provide collectors today with a wonderful source of illustrative ephemera for displays.

The Nazis were among the first to realise that stamp and card / label collecting could co-exist. The combined effect stirred young Germans to believe their country was the most powerful nation, one with a mission to recolonise and rule the world. These books and their labels showed the wonderful colonies that had been lost and some of the stalwart young Germans with them. GSWA was the lost colony with the largest but still small German population. The images of the "Ideal Type of Youth" shown here resonate with the Hitler Youth movement.

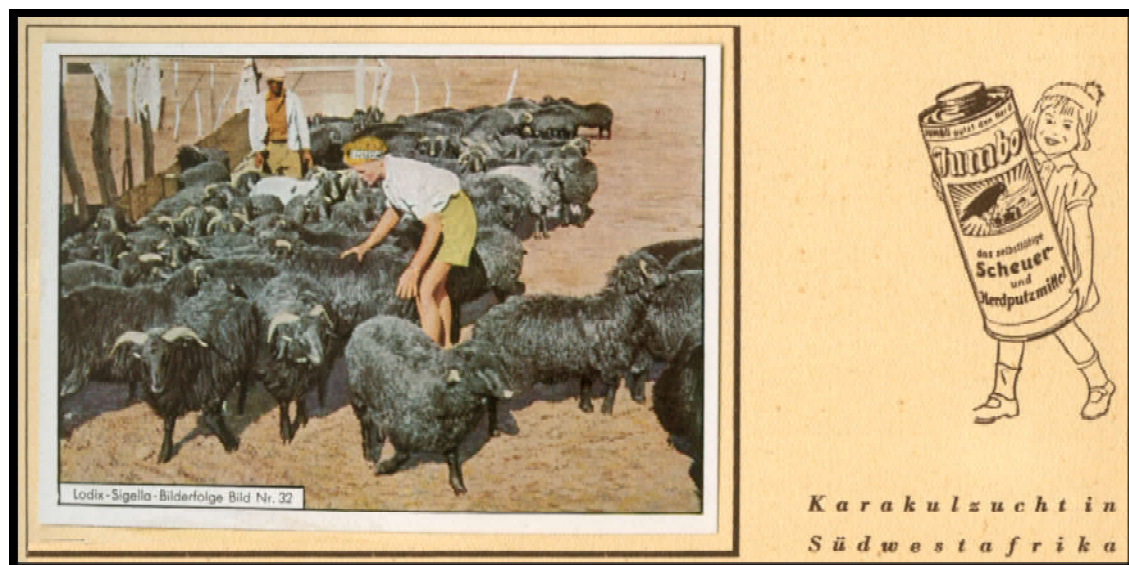


The Second World War which had begun with great success for the Nazis slowly dissipated into a long and losing struggle after German defeat in the Battle of Britain in 1940. In frustration Hitler turned his attention to what he had always wanted, 'Lebensraum' in Russia and Eastern Europe. Initially, the German invasion of Russia went well but poor planning, winter and stubborn resistance took the steam out of Hitler's rash and ill-considered venture.

**Labels of GSWA from 'Deutschland's Kolonien'.
(Sidel Bilderdienst. Köln, Braunsfeld. 1938.)**



1938. 2 x gummed Labels showing 'lost GSWA' affixed to Sidel commercial product book. The Nazi's RKB is working with German industry to promote the colonial restoration project.



Despite the closure of the Colonial Society, Seitz remained a respected figure in colonial circles where he continued to promote a reinterpretation of historical events. However, following the invasion of Russia Hitler's compelling need to find 'Lebensraum' became a war of brutal, meat-grinding battles and genocide. After America entered the war and began to make its presence known through a daily daylight bombing campaign accompanied by the RAF at night Germans began to realise that the only route to reclaiming their lost overseas colonies was on the battlefield.

By 1942 the RKB had achieved such a growth in membership that the wartime Nazi leadership worried it had become an unwieldy body, one which was devoting too much time, energy and manpower into a cause not supported by Hitler and the German General Staff. As a consequence, in late 1942, Martin Bormann, the Nazi Party Secretary, informed General von Epp and the RKB that the organisation's financial resources and manpower were required for other areas more in line with the national interest. This decision came after disastrous German defeats in North Africa and at Stalingrad.

According to Tony Davis, ('South West Africa and the Reich Colonial League'. FORERUNNERS Mar/Jun '94), "From 1943, little is recorded about the RKB nor is there much philatelic material". This is almost certainly because the RKB was forced to close up shop as the war turned against Germany. The RKB's resources were now needed to stave off Gotterdammerung, (Norse. the 'Twilight of the Gods', an apocalyptic end of the world). Tony's article is well-illustrated with B/W images of RKB postal history. See: <https://www.psgsa.org/website/pages/journal/archive/Forerunners20.pdf>

Gotterdammerung - The Holocaust Hitler Inflicted on Germany!

The GSWA colonial period has been linked to ideologies and practices that have been described as precursors of the Nazi holocaust, in particular General Lothar von Trotha's genocidal military campaigns against the Herero and Nama. When Seitz argued that Germany had ruled "*efficiently and justly*" he was being economic with the truth. As a lawyer, Seitz took refuge in the law. The Berlin Conference gave him all the legal justifications he needed to make that claim. In any event, Seitz would have forfeited his life had he spoken out with any honesty about GSWA in Nazi Germany which did not want to hear about an African holocaust, especially as they perpetrated a far bigger one much closer to home.

While Seitz was President and Honorary President of the German Colonial Society it worked alongside the Nazi Party in the early 1930s sharing what it thought was a common goal, the restoration of lost colonies. Unlike his contemporary, Heinrich Schnee, the ex-Governor of GEA, Seitz never joined the Nazi Party. After the Nazis dissolved the Colonial Society in 1936, Seitz continued supporting colonial restoration in a private capacity despite having lost his power and influence. He survived both the Nazis and the war but died in obscurity in 1949 in a devastated and once more defeated Germany, one now divided into Allied occupation zones, a country with no prospect of regaining its empire and lost colonies. Ironically, those most guilty of taking Germany to its post-war piles of rubble, the Nazis, were the ones who for the sake of political advantage had created the racist *stab-in-the-back* betrayal myth to explain and exploit German defeat in WW1. The difference with WW1 in 1945 was the undeniable responsibility of the Nazis for Germany's defeat.

The Fate of German Colonies: Overprinting and Otherwise.

Seitz saw to it that NO overprints were made on GSWA stamps! However, during World War I, other German colonies unable to destroy their stamps were subjected to the overprinting of their captured German colonial "Yacht" stock for temporary Allied postal use. This is a brief outline of what happened to some of the stamps from the following territories:

German East Africa:

In 1915, British forces overprinted captured Yacht stamps on Mafia Island. These "G.B. MAFIA" overprints are rare. German forces remained undefeated in GEA until the end of WW1. In 1919 the League of Nations gave Britain a mandate to rule GEA. It became a British colony known as Tanganyika. In 1947, it became a United Nations Trust Territory under British administration until independence in 1961. The modern country of Tanzania dates from 1964 when it united with the island of Zanzibar, previously a slave-trading hub controlled by the Sultanate of Oman before it became a British protectorate. Britain exchanged Heligoland and the Caprivi strip with Germany for Zanzibar in order to end the East African slave trade.



1938.
Labels of 'Watusi Warriors', above, and 'Crocodiles', left, in GEA affixed to Sidol commercial product book. The RKB successfully worked with German industry to promote both colonial restoration and commerce.



German Kamerun:

In the context of the WW1 Kamerun Campaign (1914 -1916), "C.E.F." stands for the Anglo-French 'Cameroons Expeditionary Force'. This combined force invaded the German colony of Kamerun at the start of the war and occupied it in 1915. The British Expeditionary Force overprinted German Kamerun colonial Yacht stamps with "C.E.F." and sterling denominations in July 1915.

The Kamerun 1 Mark stamp right has been overprinted with 1s and C.E.F. It was cancelled on the second day of issue by favour at Duala using a captured German period code 'a' datestamp. The block of four 3 Pfennig brown Yacht stamps below right has been overprinted 'C.E.F.'



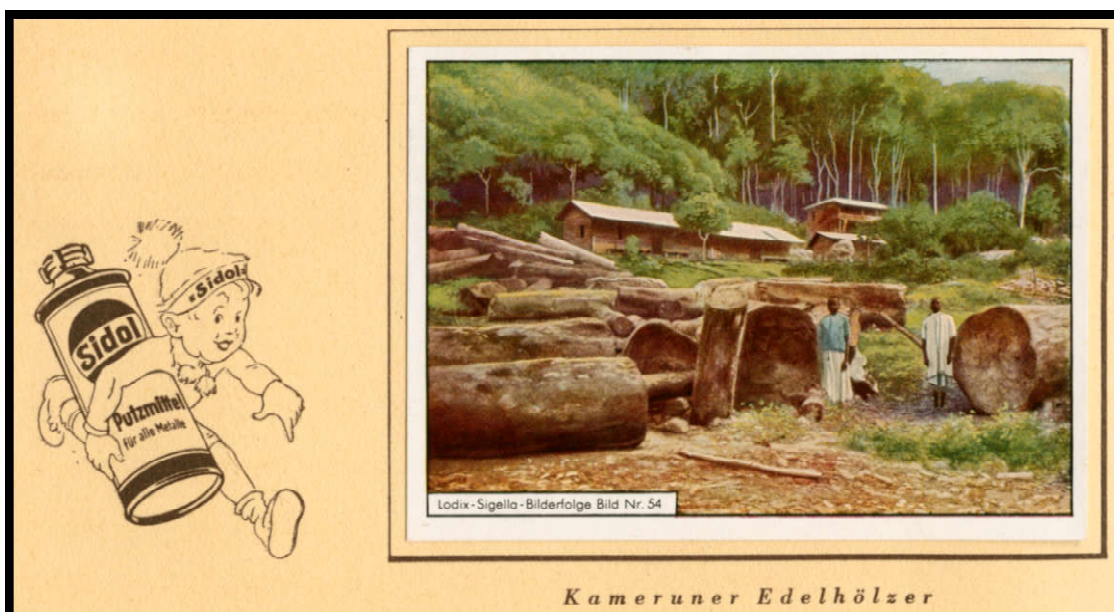
above '1/2'. While this makes up a 2d postage rate, these stamps have not been postally used. All are philatelic in origin and cancelled to order by favour. Our thanks to Kenny Napier Auctions for sharing these beautiful examples of Dr Seitz's worst nightmare with us.



1938.

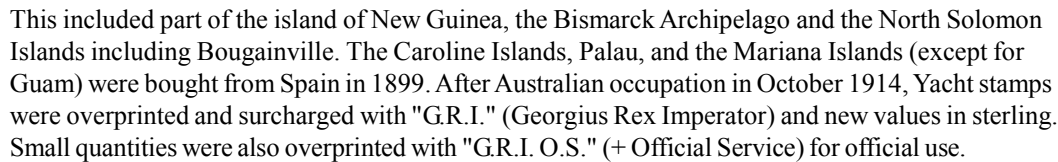
Above. Labels of 'Coast of Kamerun', above, 'Lumbering', below.

The label below shows that the desire to have colonial possessions was driven by Industrt's need for cheap raw materials. These trees were most likely cut down about 120 years ago. Have these pristine and noble forests ever recovered? Most colonial railways ran inland from the coast simply in order to take raw materials out. Seitz and later the RKB worked with German industry to promote both colonial restoration and commerce.



After WW1 the League of Nations gave France a mandate to administer most of the ex-German territory. Britain gained a small portion in the west. After France granted Cameroon independence in 1960 these two territories agreed to re-unite in 1961.

British and French forces used Yacht issues with two distinct overprints: "TOGO Anglo-French Occupation" (English) and "TOGO Occupation franco-anglaise" (French). The former German protectorate of Togoland no longer exists as a single entity. It was partitioned after WW1 into separate British and French administrative zones. Today, its territory is divided between two countries, Togo and Ghana. The Togolese Republic has the eastern two-thirds of the original colony. Previously French Togoland, it gained its independence in 1960. The western third was known the Gold Coast in 1957 and is today a part of modern Ghana. German colonial rule is development, (railways and port, etc.), but also for its harsh forced-labor practices.



The mainland part of German New Guinea (*Kaiser-Wilhelmsland*), the Bismarck Archipelago and the North Solomon Islands now form Papua New Guinea. The Northern Mariana Islands are an unincorporated territory of the USA. The Carolines (Federated States of Micronesia), the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau are independent countries.

Captured stocks were overprinted with "G.R.I." and surcharged with British denominations in late 1914. The Republic of the Marshall Islands, a sovereign nation in free association with the USA, was established in 1986. While it manages its own domestic and foreign affairs, the U.S. provides defense, security, and financial aid, alongside operating a missile testing base at Kwajalein Atoll.



German Samoa:

New Zealand forces occupied Apia on 29th September 1914 without a shot being fired. Pfennig-denominated Yacht stamps were overprinted with "G.R.I." with sterling values. Today, the territory that comprised the German protectorate is part of the independent state of Samoa which gained independence from New Zealand in 1962. The German colonial era is generally viewed in modern Samoa as having been relatively peaceful and benign. Germany and Samoa maintain close diplomatic relations with the German government funding various projects. Like some other ex-German colonies, Samoa gained a brewery. Its only beer, Vailima, is brewed according to German Purity Law.



1931.Bild 45. 9 November 1931.
German South Seas - Micronesia.

This is an early example of a label agitating for the return of Germany's lost colonies. Unlike the others shown in this display which are late examples of RKB promotions, this label is from the era of the Colonial Society when Seitz was its Honorary President. It reveals that these labels began under the reign of the Colonial Society.

*Below, Home Page Frontispiece.
Dr Seitz reflects on his life, the loss of GSWA; his prevention of a humiliating GSWA 'G.R.I.' overprint; the troubled Weimar Republic; the Colonial Society's campaign for the return of Germany's Lost Colonies; the duplicity of the Nazis whose actions resulted in Holocaust and Gotterdammerung; the turning of German cities into piles of rubble.*

