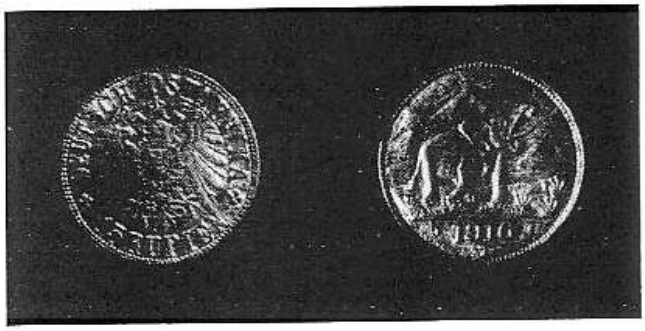
IN SEARCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE "TABORA SOVEREIGN"

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In 1956 the prompt action of Mr. J. F. R. Hill, then Chairman of the Trustees of the King George V Memorial Museum, enabled the acquisition of a specimen of this comparatively rare coin, which had come on the market, for the national collection. The so-called "Tabora Sovereign" has already received some attention in *Tanganyika Notes and Records*(1), and here the discussion can be carried a stage further. But there is still much more to be known, and it is to be hoped that discussion will continue.

Properly speaking this gold piece is not a sovereign at all; my excuse for calling it so is that the name "Tabora Sovereign" has become traditional in Tanganyika. The term sovereign means a gold coin worth a pound sterling which displays the head of the ruler. Correctly, this is a fifteen-rupee gold piece. Why the tradition of German gold coinage was broken in this instance, and the sovereign's head not displayed, cannot at present be explained.



The specimen in the King George V Memorial Museum may be described as follows:—

*AV. Condition good, slightly worn by usage.

Obverse: Within a plain circle and a circle of dots, the Imperial German eagle crowned, charged with the arms of Prussia, surrounded by the legend:

∴DEUTSCH OSTAFRIKA ∴ 15 RUPIEN

Reverse: Within a plain circle and a circle of dots an elephant with extended trunk passing a range of mountains showing six peaks: the bottom separated by a line, date and mint-mark for Tabora beneath:

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Rim: Plain.

There are similar specimens in the British Museum and in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, which likewise show signs of wear by usage.

(1) P. J. du Toit, Notes on the Coinage of German East Africa (Tanganyika), *T.N.R.* No. 31, July 1951; D. M. Phatak, letter in *T.N.R.* No. 32, January, 1952; idem, letter in *T.N.R.* No. 33, July 1952; U. Trappe, letter in *T.N.R.* No. 32, January, 1953, quoting a report of a German newspaper *Ubersee-Nachrichten*, of 15th November, 1952, D. D. Yonge, Tabora Emergency Coinage, *T.N.R.* No. 44 September 1956, p. 63.

*AV. Diphthong is the technical sign denoting gold.