No other gold coin was ever minted by the Government of German East Africa, and their reason for doing so in 1916 is still obscure. The very small number of these coins minted—only about 2,000—does not suggest that it was to combat a shortage of gold currency. Moreover, such a difficulty could easily have been overcome, as it was in contemporary Great Britain and elsewhere, by a paper issue.

Du Toit remarked that the pieces "must have been struck with dies made by an engraver of great skill and artistic ability", which led him to conclude that they were made in Germany, and smuggled into East Africa in 1916 by submarine.(2) In fact, this hypothesis raised more questions than it answered. Fortunately it led Phatak to make enquiries in Tabora, the traditional place of minting, and one which is now indubitably correct. He was told that the pieces were made from dies cut there by a Sinhalese engraver, an employee of one or more Dar es Salaam firms, and that subsequently this person "was sentenced to some years' imprisonment for making counterfeit Tabora Sovereigns in Zanzibar".(3)

His account, which was obtained from local residents, certainly disposed of the submarine story, although it did not prevent it from being repeated in the German press(4). There is, however, a curious connection with two German vessels which has now come to light.

Phatak's two letters made me wonder if the engraver's name could still be traced. There was an obvious clue in the allegation that he was tried for forgery in Zanzibar. Careful consideration of the clue, however, suggested that it was inherently improbable. Why should a man wish to utter forged German fifteen-rupee gold pieces in Zanzibar with German power in East Africa crumbling, if not fallen?

By the kindness of Sir John Gray, formerly Chief Justice of Zanzibar, the Court records were searched: they did not disclose a case of this kind against a Sinhalese, nor, indeed, against anyone else. Negatively, it was at least satisfactory to clear this charge, but it took the enquiry no further. Sir John Gray also asked a number of Sinhalese shopkeepers in Zanzibar; they knew nothing of such a person. Instead, there was a fresh problem—how such a story got about.

I then started enquiries among the Sinhalese community in Dar es Salaam. The chances of finding out about the making of gold coins forty years ago seemed remote; but eventually I was able to find Mr. D. G. A. Jameshamy, now an employee of the Ceylon Jewellers, who had known the engraver personally and the history of the minting. Mr. Jameshamy has lived in Tanganyika for more than fifty years, and must be among the longest established residents.

The name of the engraver of the dies for the "Tabora Sovereign" was Vatthiare. A Sinhalese, he came to Dar es Salaam to work as a gold- and silver-smith in 1910, when the German Government held a trade fair. He had previously worked in Messrs. H. H. Malis de Silva's principal branch in Zanzibar. He died in 1926.

In 1915, Mr. Jameshamy said, the German Government asked for men from Messrs. de Silva's shop in Dar es Salaam to go to Tabora to operate a

(2) Op. cit., p. 41.
(3) Op. cit., January 1952, p. 104.
(4) Trappe, op. cit., p. 95.