mint. Four men went, all Sinhalese: Vatthiare as foreman, with Messrs. Simion, Chareshamy and L. B. Charleshamy. The Germans had made a machine for minting coins with assorted machinery from the wrecks of the *Kronberg*(5) and *Tabora*(6). For this machine they required a man capable of designing and engraving the dies: these tasks were assigned to Vatthiare(7).

A quantity of gold had been brought from the mines at Sekenke, which contained a proportion of silver. As minted, the pieces were of eighteen carat gold. Vatthiare was responsible for the actual stamping, while his three colleagues were employed in smoothing the pieces of roughnesses. Evidently the machinery was somewhat "Heath Robinson", which would account for this necessity, and, with the probability that more than one die was used, for the minor differences noted by Phatak(8).

Mr. Jameshamy says that minting took place both in 1915 and in 1916. Certainly the only known issues are dated 1916: and only these are noted in Wayte Raymond's Coins of the World, Twentieth Century Issues.(9) In 1915 it would be reasonable, in minting coins, to date them 1916, if they were for issue in that year.

Only 2,000 of these attractive gold pieces, says Mr. Jameshamy, were minted altogether. They were not originally intended as coins, but to be given as presents and souvenirs. The German banks sold them at their face value, but they rapidly acquired an inflated value as a result of a general scarcity of gold and of gold currency. At the peak of this inflation they reached a value equivalent to Shs. 200/-. At this time a tale was spread by certain money-changers that Vatthiare had forged them in considerable quantities in Zanzibar, and had been imprisoned there for it. Those who knew Vatthiare knew the rumour to be untrue—as indeed the Court records bear negative witness: but it served the purpose of the money-changers in undermining confidence in their inflated value as currency.

It is certainly satisfactory to be able to record so much more about these coins. But there are many more questions one would like to ask. What was the German motive? The Deutsch Ostafrika Gesellschaft had minted silver and copper in Germany for East Africa in 1901; in 1904 the first official silver and copper issues, minted in Berlin, were issued by the German Government. Before 1916 the Germans had never minted special gold coins for East Africa, but had used those of the Fatherland. If, in 1915, they had found themselves short of gold currency, they could hardly have expected to remedy the deficiency by such a small issue.

It may be hoped that one day German documents may disclose the origin and history of this issue from official sources.

(5) G. W. Hatchell, Maritime Relics of the 1914–18 War, *T.N.R.* No. 36, January 1954, pp. 1–3, gives the history of the *Kronberg*. It lies in Manza Bay, between Moa and Tanga.

(6) Ibid., pp. 4, 7-8. The *Tabora* was sunk in Dar es Salaam harbour.

(7) This disagrees with Trappe's statement, op. cit., p. 95, that the original design was by a Mr. Voight, of the Railways Administration, Tabora. Perhaps he prepared a design on paper, which Vatthiare subsequently adapted to the die. Close examination of the design suggests a certain oriental quality. It would be interesting if the six peaks could be identified: they do not correspond to any mountains in Tanganyika known to the writer.

(8) Op. cit., July 1952, p. 107.

(9) 4th edition, New York, 1951, p. 107, gives illustrations of this as well as the Tabora silver and brass issues of 1916. This is a standard work, and it would be temerarious to contradict it without tangible proof. I have been unable to find out the number of the silver and brass issues minted.