

PETER HOLCOMBE

PHILATELIC EXPERT

LUZERN, SWITZERLAND.

Certificate No. 10449/95

August, 29th 1995

TANGANYIKA. (Mafia Island) 1915 (Sept.). An envelope bearing German East-African fiscal stamps inscribed "Statistik des Waren-Verkehrs" 24p to 1rp. and "Uebersetzungs-Gebühren" 25 heller; 24 pesa vermilion on buff to 1rp. lilac and 25 heller grey (6 values), all handstamped "O.H.B.M.S. Mafia" in a circle and a further handstamp "G.R.Post Mafia" both in violet probably used in this case as a cancellation (as S.G. M27-M32, Michel 27-32, Gibbs 48-53), the 24 pesa has been struck twice both inverted. It is addressed to London, England and has a violet boxed "Passed by Navel Censor" on the reverse. The cover has not been through the mail. As such it is in my opinion genuine.

The 24 pesa has been detached and then replaced slightly in a different position. The G.R.Mafia handstamp was struck after the stamps were put on the envelope. Very few covers are known, all appear to be of presentation or souvenir status. This is the first envelope which I have seen, where the G.R.Mafia handstamp is not central and ties the stamps to the envelope, giving reason to believe that the handstamp was possibly either a control or a form of cancellation prior to its use as a handstamp on the subsequent issue of Indian adhesives. A very rare envelope.

Ex Danson sale, Robson Lowe, May, 1971, lot 1520.



No. 44,864

13 JUN 1957

The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed *Tanganyika:*
German East African Stamps: 1915 complete
set (S.G. 7-12), used on cover.

Stamp, sent by *Herz J.R. Schär*
of which a photograph is attached hereto, and are
of opinion *that it is Genuine*
(Philatelic Cover)

FOR THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.

J. R. Danson

CHAIRMAN

49 24 pesa to 1 rupee, the set of six (S.G. M27-M32), overprinted in violet with circular "O.H.B.M.S. Mafia" and tied by "G.R. Post Mafia" in violet on envelope addressed to London, framed "Passed by Naval Censor" handstamp also in violet on reverse, the 24 pesa lifted and replaced in slightly different position and the 50 heller has a small defect at top, otherwise Very Fine, only a few covers are known bearing the complete set, and this is possibly a unique instance of the overprint used as a control handstamp or cancellation. Michel 27-32 (photo). Estimate \$10,000-12,500

Expertization: 1995 Holcombe Certificate.

Provenance: Colonel J.R. Danson.

44,864

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.



Captain E. W. Connor
H.M.S. "Barford"
Tiene Anchorage
Mafia Island

44,864