This exhibit covers the four regular issues, Specimen overprints, nine provisional issues, special printings for the UPU and postal usages of the stamps. (Overprinting of the anna value Queen Victoria stamps for use in Zanzibar and Uganda are the subject of two separate exhibits.)

The Imperial British East Africa Company was the first company holding a charter allowing operation of a postal system, for both local and international mail, to use their company name on the their stamps. They were also the first to create a series of surcharged stamps with authorizing initials. Both of these led to the adoption of these practices by entities such as the British South Africa Company and the Mozambique Company in 1892 and the surcharged Uganda typewritten stamps in 1895.

The Imperial British East Africa Company (IBEAC) received a Royal Charter in 1888 and started mail service at offices in Mombasa and Lamu in May 1890 using a provisional issue, overprinted stamps of Great Britain (‘On GB’). IBEAC definitive stamps were issued later in 1890 and used until July 1, 1895 when administration was turned over to the Crown as a Protectorate. A stamp shortage in 1890 resulted in the use of the stamps of India. Further shortages resulted in the handstamped and manuscript provisional of 1891. Provisional stamps for double and triple weight letters were issued in 1894. Another shortage of low value stamps in 1895 resulted in the TECR provisional issue. In July 1895 remaining IBEAC stamps were overprinted using a handstamp reading “British East Africa” in three lines; the Protectorate Handstamp Issue. The continuing shortages of stamps caused the ‘On India’ and ‘On Zanzibar’ provisional issues and surcharges of some of these stamps to meet the single weight letter rate of 2½ annas.

The colony had no printing press and the overprinting for the local provisional issues was done either manually or in Zanzibar, complicating the process and allowing for a number of errors that otherwise might have been prevented.

The British East Africa postal system, although amalgamated with Uganda in 1901, continued use of its own stamps until 1903 when the East Africa and Uganda Protectorate Postal Administration issued new stamps.
‘On GB’ Provisionals, 1890

First stamps issued in the colony were contemporary Queen Victoria stamps of Great Britain overprinted and surcharged by De La Rue and Co. Three values issued.

(L)amu AU 29 90

Mombasa JY 1 90
4½ annas was the overseas single letter rate

Mombasa JU 24 90
Earliest recorded Mombasa cancellation

Whitfield King purchased all remaining ‘On GB’ stamps at Mombasa in July 1890.

Mombasa 15 March 1895
A total of 19 Whitfield King covers are recorded.
Left stamp shows the constant variety of ‘B’ in British over ‘S’ of East
Use of Indian Stamps & Postal Stationery

IBEAC Administration

1890 Stamps of India were used at Mombasa from July through December 1890 because of the stamp shortage created by the Whitfield King purchase. Mail was typically cancelled the day before or the day the mail ship sailed. Six covers and two postal cards are recorded from this period.

Mombasa 20 August 1890
Registered cover addressed to the Eastern Telegraph Co Ltd., London, emanating from the company’s cable laying vessel working in the area. The cover bears the following stamps of the India 1882-88 issue, all with manuscript ‘B.E.A.’: 1½ anna, 1 anna, 3 annas, and 4 annas 6 pice. The postmark is ‘Mombasa 22 July 1890’ in red ink. The cover is cancelled with ‘SS Madura’ and ‘SS Ethiopia’ postmarks.

1891-5 After the ending of the stamp shortage period it is believed that Indian covers and postal stationery bearing IBEA Company cancellations are from Indian traders whose mail was carried by boat or runner to IBEAC offices.

Mombasa 28 October 1893
Postal stationery envelope addressed to Lisbon, Portugal.
Of the nine such covers recorded this is the only one not addressed to India or Zanzibar.

Crown Administration, 1895-1902
Covers with cancellations after the change in administrations are believed to be of paquebot boat status. Five covers have been recorded all addressed to Lamu and cancelled at Lamu or Mombasa.
IBEAC SPECIMEN Overprints

1890 Definitive Issue

Stamps distributed by the UPU in January 1891 were not overprinted. In November 1890 the IBEAC applied a SPECIMEN handstamp to five values and attached them to letters promoting the Company's stamps.

1894 Provisional Issue

The UPU distributed 700 sets in December 1894 handstamped by the IBEAC.

1895 Definitive Issue

The UPU distributed 730 sets in January 1895 handstamped by the IBEAC.
IBEAC Definitive Issue

1890 Printing


![Stamp Images](image-url)
IBEAC Definitive Issue
1890 Printing, Half Anna

Only recorded full sheet

Sheet margins of the 1890 printings were not perforated
IBEAC Definitive Issue
Margin Perforation Varieties

1890 Printing
Wove Bank watermark paper by William Collins, Sons & Co.
Imperforate narrow margins

1893 Printing
1011 watermarked paper by Wiggins, Teape & Co.
Narrow perforated margins

1893 Printing
Thick paper without watermark
Wide perforated margins

1894 Printing
Thick paper without watermark
Very wide perforated margins
IBEAC Definitive Issue

Grey Stamps of 1890

The 4 annas, 8 annas and 1 rupee stamps printed in grey were originally intended for revenue purposes. The Company did not find it convenient to have two stamps of the same value in different colors and sold the 8 annas and 1 rupee for postal use. The two sheets of the 4 annas had not been perforated and were sold to H.L. Hayman at a premium. The grey 4 annas are shown with the imperforate stamps.

unused  
Mombasa DE 19 93  
unused  
Lamu FE 3 94

8 annas  
1 rupee

G.E. Powter philatelic cover; cancelled Mombasa FE 19 94
IBEAC Definitive Issue

1891-1894 Printings

1891, February
paper watermarked 'W.C.S. & Co., Pure Linen Wove Bank'.

1891, July
paper watermarked 'W.C.S. & Co., Pure Linen Wove Bank'.

1892, July
paper watermarked 'W.C.S. & Co., Pure Linen Wove Bank'.

1893, September
paper watermarked '1011'

1893, September
thick paper without watermark

1894, December
thick paper without watermark
IBEAC Definitive Issue Errors

Perforation Error

Perforations between columns 1 & 2 and 8 & 9 omitted on one sheet of the first printing of the 2½ annas stamp in July 1891. These are the only recorded examples.

Pantograph Error

Broken D in LIGHT AND LIBERTY such that it appears to be the letter L. Occurs in position 55, on the lower row, in the 1890 printing of the 1 anna stamp. Not seen in the 1894 printing.

Error stamp is in the upper left. Philatelic cover created for the 1895 TECR manuscript provisional.
IBEAC Imperforate Stamps of 1890

Two sheets (60 stamps each) of six values were produced. All of the imperforate sheets were sold to H.L. Hayman, a London stamp dealer, for a premium over face value.

Left stamp has the constant variety mis-shaped S in EAST, position 21

8 unused pairs recorded

Pair of 4 annas imperforate issue of 1890 on 141 x 78 mm IBEAC embossed envelope with manufactures imprint issued in 1893

9 Hayman covers with imperforate stamps are recorded
IBEAC Imperforate Stamps of 1890
IBEAC Imperforate Stamps of 1891

Imperforate 2½ annas stamps from the September 1891 printing. Unrecorded prior to discovery of this pair.

IBEAC Imperforate Stamps of 1893

Three sheets (60 stamps each) of the 4 values were produced and sold to H.L. Hayman at a premium.

2½ annas imperforate pair on 141 x 78 mm IBEAC embossed envelope of 1893 with manufacturers imprint. One of 9 covers recorded with imperforate stamps.
IBEAC Imperforate Between, Vertical Pairs

All partially perforated sheets of the stamps printed in 1893 were sold to Hayman.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Number of Sheets</th>
<th>Possible Pairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>½ anna</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2½ annas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 annas</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4½ annas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 used blocks recorded

DB 25079

DB 20804
IBEAC Imperforate Between, Horizontal Pairs

All partially perforated sheets of the stamps printed in 1893 were sold to Hayman.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Number of Sheets</th>
<th>Possible Pairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>½ anna</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2½ annas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 annas</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4½ annas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Double rate size J Registered Letter Envelope (first issue) from G. Denhardt & Co. in Lamu to the German Consulate in Zanzibar. Franked with a 2 annas stamp of October 1890 and a 3 annas of March 1891.

Quintuple rate size J Registered Letter Envelope (first issue) from G. Denhardt & Co. in Lamu to Hansing & Co. in Zanzibar. Franked with a 1 anna stamp of October 1890, a 2½ annas of July 1891 and a pair of 4½ annas of March 1891.
IBEAC Definitive Issue Usage

Treble weight registered letter to Jimena, Germany forwarded to Zeltz. 7½ annas postage and 2 annas registration fee paid with 1 and 8 annas stamps of 1890 and a half anna stamp of 1893.

Lamu 18 July 1894
Zanzibar 21 July 1894
Jimena 19 August 1894
Zeltz 20 August 1894

Mombasa 9 May 1895, London 2 June 1895

IBEAC embossed letter envelope of 1893 (141 x 78 mm without manufacturers imprint) with 2 annas stamp added to pay the registration fee.

IBEAC 'On Postal Service' Envelope

Official mail to overseas destinations required proper postage, in this case 2½ annas for the single letter rate to the USA. The stamps are from the first printing in 1890.

This is the only recorded example of the IBEAC 'On Postal Service' envelope. When used domestically the envelope did not require the use of stamps and were probably discarded after receipt.

Mombasa 10 August 1894

Backstamped: Zanzibar 12 August 1894
New York 25 September 1894
Roxbury 26 September 1894
IBEAC Definitive Issue Usage

Single letter rate of 4½ annas to Great Britain, effective until January 1893, paid with the first issue of the 4½ annas stamp, issued March 1891. Addressed by Thomas E.C. Remington, before being appointed Postmaster, to H.W. Hawkins a noted philatelist.

Cancelled Mombasa 17 August 1892

Imperial British East Africa Company seal embossed on flap

Registered Letter Envelope (132 x 82 mm, F size, with REGISTERED LETTER 64 mm wide without stops, issued in 1891) addressed by Postmaster Thomas E.C. Remington. The 5½ annas franking, consisting of a ½ anna stamp of 1890 and two 2½ annas stamps of 1891, paying the single letter rate of 4½ annas plus insurance.

Cancelled Mombasa 27 December 1892
IBEAC Definitive Issue Usage

Single letter rate of 2½ annas to Europe and UPU countries, not routed through Great Britain, was effective from January 1892. Registration was 2 annas.

2½ annas stamp
issued Sept. 1891

Lamu 23 June 92
Aden 30 June 92
Jlmenau 14 July 92

Earliest recorded use of the Clemens Denhardt handstamp

Herrn Clemens Denhardt
Bahnhofstrasse No. 7
Jlmenau.
(Thüringen).

Double weight letter to German East Africa.

IBEAC embossed envelope (145 x 82 mm) with added 2½ annas stamp of 1893.

Mombasa 25 August 94
Zanzibar 27 August 94
Bagamoyo 30 August 94
IBEAC Handstamped Provisionals, 1891

A shortage of low value stamps to make up the single letter rates to England and Europe, 4½ annas and 3 annas respectively, was solved locally by surcharging stamps in plentiful supply.

½ anna handstamped on 2 annas, initialed AD (Andrew Dick, Chief Accountant) 1075 produced, January 1891.

Unused
6 recorded

Mombasa CDS

Aden MA 9 91  
DB 15254
2 recorded with Aden cancels, 1 in the Royal collection

Mombasa MR 30 91
new value over original value
5 recorded

1 anna handstamped on 4 annas, initialed AB (Archibald Brown, Company Cashier). Quantity produced unknown, March 1891.

Unused
3 recorded
BPA 62,386

Mombasa CDS
1 in manuscript
IBEAC Handstamped Provisionals Usage

One of two covers recorded bearing the 1 anna handstamped provisional.

The strip of three 1 anna on 4 annas handstamped provisional, initialed AB, paid the 3 anna European single letter rate.

[Image of a letter with postmarks and stamps]

Cancelled Mombasa 2 March 1891

Earliest recorded usage

STPA 89

Cover addressed by Capt. F.G. Dundas, RN to his son, a midshipman on the HMS Edinburgh, the Mediterranean Squadron, Malta. Routed through Aden, received in Malta March 22. Re-addressed to Salonica; Malta forwarding CDS of March 25. 1891 on front.

[Image of a letter with postmarks]

Backstamped Aden March 9 and Malta March 22, 1891
IBEAC Manuscript Provisionals, 1891

1/2 anna surcharge on 2 annas definitive; initialed AB (Archibald Brown)
Quantity produced unknown, February 1891. The surcharge was done in three ‘hands’,
the third variant similar to that on the ½ anna on 3 anna provisional also initialed ‘AB’.

'Mombasa Provisional’
thin manuscript

unused
2 recorded
DB 19741

used
Mombasa cds
Annas (plural) Error

controversial
cancel
Mombasa FE 30 91

correct cancel
Mombasa MR 2 91
BPA 28,259

'Lamu Provisional’
thick manuscript

unused
5 recorded
DB 12286

Lamu cancel
Lamu AP 28 91
DB 18888

3 recorded with
Mombasa cancels
Mombasa MY 26 91
RPSL 48,803

'Third Hand’

unused
1 recorded
BPA 71,793

used
6 recorded
Mombasa JU 23 91
IBEAC Manuscript Provisionals, 1891

1 anna surcharge on 4 annas definitive; initialed AB (Archibald Brown)
Quantity produced unknown, issued March 1891.

'Mombasa Provisional'
thin manuscript

unused

3 recorded
BPA 51,293

used
Mombasa 91
RPSL 79735

fiscally used with posthumous cancel
clerk created for a profit
PH Opinion

'Lamu Provisional'
thick manuscript

unused

5 recorded
BPA 55,707

used
Lamu AP 17 91
BPA 49,660
IBEAC Manuscript Provisionals, 1891

½ anna surcharge on 2 annas, initialed AD (Andrew Dick). Quantity produced unknown, issued January 1891. No unused copies recorded.

1 anna surcharge on 3 annas, initialed VHM (Victor H. Mackenzie) Quantity produced unknown, issued June 1891.

Eight covers recorded
Provisional pair with 2 ½ annas definitive to pay the correct single registered letter rate
Canceled Mombasa DE 13 93, Zanzibar and Aden cds on reverse
IBEAC Manuscript Provisionals, 1891

½ anna surcharge on 3 annas, initialed AB (Archibald Brown) Quantity produced unknown, issued May 1891. Two unused recorded.

Mombasa JU 23.91
RPSL 173540

Mombasa 2 July 1891, backstamped Zanzibar 3 July 1891

Only recorded cover
Two stamps removed and cover reduced at right.

Monthly Journal, December 1899:

“Our correspondent (H.L. Churchill) tells us that he was British Vice-Consul at Zanzibar in 1891, and being at Mombasa on July 2nd in that year he went to the post office to get some British East Africa stamps. He asked for ½ anna stamps, and finding that there were only about a dozen on hand he bought them all, put them on the envelope, and addressed it to himself at Zanzibar.”
IBEAC Provisional Issues of 1894

The 1890 8 annas and 1 rupee IBEAC regular issues were surcharged by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. in November 1894. Produced to service the double and treble letter rates. 1800 of each were printed; 700 of each sent to the UPU.
TECR Manuscript Provisionals, 1895

Postmaster T.E.C. Remington surcharged the 3 annas stamp in ½ anna and 1 anna values in February 1895. 2000 of the ½ anna are recorded as being produced plus a small, undocumented, quantity of the 1 anna.

½ anna

unused
DB 25082

Mombasa FE 19 95
earliest recorded usage
part of Remington's signature

1 anna

unused
4 recorded
BPA 71,796

used
5 recorded
DB 24955

Two ½ anna provisionals plus two pairs of the 1 anna stamp from the 1890 printing overpaid the correct registered single letter rate of 4½ annas. Canceled Mombasa MY 9 95
BPA 76511
Postal Administration Changeover: ‘Grace Period’

There was a ‘grace period’ for use of IBEAC stamps and postal stationery after the change in postal administrations on 1 July 1895 until the release of provisionals 9 July in Mombasa and 10 July in Lamu. Several loose stamps and three embossed postal stationery envelopes, 137 x 78 mm, are recorded.

Mombasa

2½ annas
7 July

½ anna TECR
9 July

Lamu

2½ annas
10 July

Mombasa 6 July 1895
Backstamped: Aden JL 16 95 and Dresden 26.7.95

Mombasa 9 July 1895
Backstamped: Bombay F JL 22 95, Bombay 2nd 22 JL 95, Bombay R 23 JL 95 and Cutch Mandvi 25 JL 95
Crown Administration Provisional Issue of 1895

Protectorate Handstamp

1 July 1895 marked the passing of administrative control of the colony to the Crown. The stock of IBEAC definitives remaining in the colony were overprinted at the Zanzibar Gazette using a handstamp reading “BRITISH/EAST/AFRICA” in three lines. The stamps were issued in Mombasa on 9 July and Lamu on 10 July.

ANL error
4 unused recorded
Perforations added
Protectorate Handstamp, Used

Only existing inventories of IBEAC definitives in the Colony received the Protectorate Handstamp. Three used stamps are scarce:

- ½ anna dull brown, 1890 printing
- 1 anna, ANL error, 1890 printing
- 4½ annas brown-purple, 1893 printing

**Dull Brown**
- 2 recorded, both used

**ANL error**
- 2 used recorded
  Perforations added to left stamp
Protectorate Handstamp Multiples

Largest recorded multiples of the 4 annas and 1 rupee provisionals.

4 annas block of 14 from right sheet margin
Mombasa FE 25 96

1 Rupee block of 10 from right sheet margin
Mombasa FE 27 96

Double Overprints

‘Kiss Double’ The overprint was applied using printers type secured to a wooden handle. Slippage, or bounce of the type on the stamp, caused a partial double print; especially to the right hand side of the overprint. Frequently seen

True double When the type was lifted off the stamp and placed down in a different position a true double impression was created. These are infrequent.
Protectorate Handstamp Usages

These provisional stamps are recorded on 34 commercial covers.

Half anna on a 2½ annas handstamped embossed postal stationery envelope addressed by Segebrock of the Leipzig Lutheran Mission in Moschi, German East Africa, to Kurland, Russia (now part of Latvia).

Correctly franked single rate letter to England. Addressed by Richard Herbert Leakey, a CMS missionary in East Africa from 1892 until 1924.
Protectorate Handstamp Usages

2½ annas on a handstamped Registered Letter Envelope addressed to Karachi, India.

Mombasa squared circle cancel  SP 3 95
Karachi cds (on reverse) SE 20 95
125 of the F size RLE were overprinted; 6 used copies are recorded.

Double overprint on a philatelic cover; 7½ annas stamp, second stamp from left.

G.E. Powter self-addressed cover canceled Mombasa AU 15 95

PH 4558/89
Protectorate Handstamp Surcharges

Some of the 3780 available 4½ annas stamps with the Protectorate Handstamp were surcharged 2½ annas for the single letter postage rate. There is no record of the quantity surcharged but it is estimated that 30 sheets, 1800 stamps, were surcharged.

Unused

Mombasa OC 1 95

Mombasa MY 21 96

G. E. Powter created a number of self-addressed covers
‘On India’ Provisional Issue, 1895

Stamps of India, obtained from the Indian Post Office in Zanzibar, were overprinted by the Zanzibar Gazette. Five printings were done from October 1895 to August 1896.

Narrow B in British; two different width B were used with a ratio of 2 wide to 1 narrow.
‘On India’ Provisional Issue, 1895

Wide B in British: two different width B were used with a ratio of 2 wide to 1 narrow.
Earliest Recorded Usages

Earliest Recorded Usage
Mombasa 27 October 1895

Earliest recorded usage on cover: IBEAC size F RLE with the Protectorate Handstamp overprint (one of six used recorded) from Denhardt & Co., addressed to Germany, franked a pair of the 2½ annas. The monthly British India mailboat, SS *Madura*, sailed from Zanzibar on 26 October and called at Mombasa and Lamu before arriving in Aden on 4 November, which corresponds with the backstamp.

Lamu 28 October 1895, backstamped Aden 4 November and Hamburg 15 November 1895

Second of the two covers recorded with October 1895 cancellations, providing further evidence of the release of the 2½ annas stamps in October.

Mombasa 31 October 1895, backstamped Zanzibar 2 November 1895, London 21 November 1895
Typographical Error: Britlsh

Letter l substituted for the second i in British. Error appears on the four values of the first printing and was then corrected; presumably also occurred in the trial printing. 23 copies of the error are recorded; 4 of these are in the Royal Collection including the only other recorded examples of the unused 1 anna and used half anna.

unused
3 recorded
RPSL 66667

unused
2 recorded
RPSL 83152

unused
4 recorded
RPSL 17,833

Mombasa NO 20 95
2 recorded
RPSL 17,832

Mombasa NO 23 95
2 recorded
DB 21041

Mombasa MR 20 96
5 recorded
No unused copies recorded
RPSL 90220

3 covers recorded with the Britlsh error, all philatelic and dated 11 Nov. 95
Proves left marginal position
Missing Letter Errors

E_st, missing a in East error. Loosening of the frame holding the type caused the letter a in East to fall out in sheet position 10, probably during the final printing. Only recorded copy outside the Royal Collection. This discovery by the exhibitor led to the listing in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue.

![Image of a stamp]

1 recorded

Eas__, missing t in East error; Loosening of the frame holding the type ultimately caused the letter t in East to fall out of sheet position 24 during the final overprinting of the 2½ annas stamp.

![Image of unused and used stamps]

Unused
10 recorded
BPA 50559

Used
5 recorded
RPSL 71649

Briti__, missing sh in British error and most of the second i on the ½ and 1 anna. Pairs plated as sheet positions 5 and 6, error stamps being the latter. The error stamps are penetrated in the area of the missing characters; possibly by a foreign object or broken type. These are the only recorded examples.

![Image of defect and reverse defect stamps]
Typographical Errors, 1 for i

**British error**, numeral 1 used for the first i, sheet position 120. Error not corrected and occurs on all low value printings to the 1 Rupee. Wear and shifting of the type in the form results in definable states.

- **State 1**: Clean impression of all letters
- **State 2**: Thick vertical in B
- **State 3**: East & Africa shifted to left
- **State 4**: Clean B, all lines in vertical alignment

**Africa error**, numeral 1 used for i, sheet position 11. Error not corrected and occurs on all low value printings to the 1 Rupee. Wear and shifting of the type in the form results in definable states.

- **State 2**: Broken ‘a’ in East & ‘f’ in Africa
- **State 3**: Broken ‘f’ replaced, broken ‘a’ remains
Inverted Characters

**Inverted V for A in Africa:** two sheet positions, 1 and 79. Occurs on all low values to the 1 rupee.

Sheet position 1
'B' in British low, two states

Sheet position 79

**Inverted s in British:** two sheet positions, 6 and 60. Occurs in all low values to the 1 rupee.

Sheet position 60; two states both with broken top of 'A' in Africa, second with 'h' in British low.

**Inverted s in East:** position unknown

Position 108
Small 't' in East
Font Varieties

**Small t in East:** sheet position 108. Occurs on all low values to 1 rupee.

**Italic c in Africa:** only recorded on the top three rupee values.

**Antique s in British:** only recorded on the top three rupee values.

**Antique c in Africa:** recorded on values to 1 rupee. Sheet position 28

**Wrong r in British:** lower right stamp.
Raised and Dropped Letters

Loosening of the type frame caused movement of the type in the outer columns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sheet Position</th>
<th>Image Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>dropped t in East, dropped a in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>slanting t in East, raised a in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>raised t in East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>inverted s in British, dropped h in British</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inter-character spacing was also affected by the loosening of the type frame.

- space between s and t of East on right stamp
- pinkish mauve, possibly largest multiple of this color
- space between a and s of East
- space between all letters in East
- space between s and h in British
Overprinted Margin

The six annas stamps were in panes of 80 (8 x 10) while the other low value Indian stamps came in panes of 120 (12 x 10). The overprint setting thus extended into the margins. The lower left marginal block shows the overprint setting positions 100-102, and 112-114 with 100 and 112 in the margin.

Broken Type

**Broken hook in the r of Africa**; position 3, gives impression of no dot i.

**Broken t in East**, sheet position 7.
Double Overprint

Double overprint with one albino.

1 Rupee: one sheet of 120 stamps printed with one impression sideways.

5 Rupees: Example shown has 1 mm offset, the so called ‘maximum double’.

Defective and Handstamped B

Deterioration of the type during printing of the large rupee values led to the upper left portion of the B in British missing as well as the left foot of the A in Africa in one position of the setting.

B handstamped on a few stamps when the character deteriorated beyond recognition. Six examples recorded, of which two are used 5 rupees stamps.
1 anna: largest recorded block

sheet positions: 61-66, 73-78, 85-90, 97-102, 109-114

lower left marginal block of 30 from sheet of 120
Largest Block, 12 annas

12 annas block of 30 from sheet of 120

sheet positions  61-66
                 73-78
                 85-90
                 97-102
                 109-114

Largest recorded block of the 12 annas
Constant Varieties

2½ annas upper right corner block of 30 from sheet of 120

sheet positions
7-12
19-24
31-36
43-48
55-60

Largest recorded block of the 2½ annas

Varieties:
Broken t in East, sheet position 7
1 for i in Africa, Minns state 1, sheet position 11
Inverted s in British, sheet position 60
Constant Varieties

3 annas block of 30 from sheet of 120

sheet positions
4-9
16-21
28-33
40-45
52-57

Largest recorded block of the 3 annas

Varieties:

Inverted s in British, sheet position 6

Broken t in East, sheet position 7

Antique c in Africa, sheet position 28
‘On India’ Usage

The single weight letter (½ ounce) rate was 2½ annas to all locations from 1893 until the introduction of the Imperial Penny Post on December 25, 1898.

Single Weight
←
To Aden
Mombasa JY 9 96
Aden JL 27 6

Double Weight →
Judge Cator to a relative with the Nile Expeditionary Force.

Mombasa DE 27 96, Zanzibar 30 DE 96, Caire 18 I 97, Wadi-Halfa 26 JA 97

Single Weight
Registered Letter Envelope
(2 annas Queen Victoria)
←
To Germany
Mombasa NO 7 96
Aden NO 15 96
Wedel 21 11 96
‘On India’ Usage

Cover to the USA addressed by Frederick W. Krieger of the African Inland Mission, an American organization. A two annas ‘On India’ paired with a three annas ‘Small Queen’ stamp paid the five annas rate for a double weight letter. Five letters written between January 16, and February 18, 1897 are enclosed. Krieger wrote the first letter at Lanjaro Camp, the second at his residence in Kilungu, the third at Camp Daranjí while traveling to the coast and the final two while he was in Mombasa, where he mailed the letters.

Mombasa 22 February 1897, Zanzibar 28 February, New Britain 28 March 1897

The earliest recorded usage if the half and one anna overprinted stamps are on one of the six recorded size F Registered Letter Envelopes with the Protectorate Handstamp.

Mombasa 8 November 1895, Zanzibar 15 November 1895
Aden 2 December 1895, Bern16 December 1895
‘On India’ Surcharge

2½ annas surcharge on 1 anna 6 pies stamp of India overprinted British East Africa. Surcharge and overprint by the Zanzibar Gazette, December 1895.

Unused.  Inverted 1 in fraction  DE 19 95  Earliest recorded date of use

Roman numeral I for 1 in fraction, left stamp  Inverted s and dropped h in British

Pair on cover to London; part of the Miss Bird correspondence. There are 7 commercial covers recorded with the ‘On India’ surcharged stamps; five have single examples and two have pairs.

Mombasa FE 29 96, London cds on reverse dated MR 23 96
1 of 7 recorded covers
‘Small’ Queen Definitive Issue, 1896

De La Rue & Co. printed the Queen Victoria stamps on Crown CA watermarked paper. Up to 20 printings of the low values and 3 printings of the Rupee values were done over six years resulting in several color variations. The first delivery arrived at the Mombasa Post Office on 26 May 1896.

Mombasa 26 May 1896
Earliest Recorded Usage
'Small' Queen Specimen Overprints

De La Rue & Co. overprinted 750 sets with 'SPECIMEN', Samuel Type D12, in April 1896 to meet the UPU requirement of sending 730 sets to the UPU.

'Small Queen' Errors


Thin U in RUPEES: 5 Rupees stamp, sheet position 14. Corrected after the first printing thus a maximum of 84 produced.
‘Small Queen’ Watermark Varieties

There are two primary types of watermark varieties; those caused in producing the paper sheets for printing and those created during the printing process.

Sheet Cutting Errors: the paper was produced in a continuous web with the watermark shown. Synchronization problems between the dandy roll, applying the watermark, and the cutting process caused the marginal watermarks to be within the stamp printing area.

Printing Process Errors: sheets put on the printing press upside down caused watermark reversed errors.

normal reversed viewed from back of stamp

1 sheet of the 2 annas recorded
‘Small Queen’ Usage

Postage was 2½ annas per half ounce until the Imperial Penny Post was implemented on December 25, 1898.

Single weight letters to England ↓

Mombasa 28 FE 98, Zanzibar 5 MR 98

Double weight letter to England: Mombasa SP 14 96

Double weight to Germany
Rabai 7 SE 1900 →

Single weight to Germany
Mombasa 2 AU 98 ↓

From Col. Broome, 1st Battalion Baluchi Light Infantry, serving up country, to his wife. Pen line tied the stamp to the cover to prevent removal by porters before reaching the post office in Mombasa where it received a 23 JU 98 cancel.
Registered Letters
Quintuplet rated Queen Victoria H2 RLE to Antwerp, Belgium. Mombasa 10 AP 1901.

Letters to the U.S.A.

Single weight
Machakos OC 1598

Mombasa 21 SE 1900

Dr. J. D. Caldwell
151 Henry St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Registered letter from Mombasa; very late usage of the stamps. Overfranked ½ anna. Double weight + registration was 7 annas. Mombasa 26 JY 07.

Early usage of Uganda Protectorate inscribed CHMS envelope. In 1900 Uganda was not in the UPU and did not have registered mail service; the required BEA stamps were applied in Mombasa. Instructions in the upper left corner, in blue, date 1-2-00. Mombasa cancellation dated 22 MA 1900.
Quadruple rate Registered Letter Envelope to the U.S.A.

Protectorate Handstamped IBEAC J size RLE
1 of 3 recorded used, 200 overprinted.

Earliest recorded usage of the Taveta cds, JAN 16 97
Mombasa  JA 23 97
Aden       FE 6 97
London     21 FE 97
WashingtonDC Mar 5 97
Richmond   Mar 5 97

Albert R. Stegall, Church Missionary Society, handstamp in lower left corner along with a handstamped date of 14 JAN 97

Imperial Penny Post Letters
The single weight postage rate to Commonwealth countries was reduced to 1 anna on December 25, 1898

Single rate to Canada
Mombasa 14 JA 1901

1 of 8 recorded commercial covers with Wasin cancel
Wasin AU 10 99

RLE addressed to Judicial Judge,
Court Mombasa
Mombasa 22 FE 99

Triple rate letter to England
From Judge Gator
Mombasa 27 JA 1900
Registered Letters to Germany

Two Registered covers from the Leipzig Evangelical Mission, located at Jimba in the Rabai District, to the Director of Missions in Germany.

Rabai was a small post office opened in early 1900 about 20 miles inland from Mombasa.

Treble rate —
Franking of 6½ annas (2a registration plus 7½ postage) accomplished with four of the stamp values from the first delivery, issued May 26, 1856.

Mombasa JU 22 95

↑ Quadruple rate 12 annas paid 10 annas postage plus 2 annas registration
Rabai 3 OC 1901

Double rate —
7 annas paid 5 annas postage plus 2 annas registration
Rabai 24 SE 1901

Double rate ↑
Queen Victoria Registered Letter Envelope, H2 size from the first delivery.
Lamu AU17 97, Aden AU23 97, Hamburg 4.9.97
‘Small Queen’ Usages to the U.S.A.


Kisumu 9 DE 1902, Mombasa 16 DE 1902, New York Jan 13 03, Cleveland Jan 14 03

Double weight registered letter addressed to Newark, N.J. Overfranked by 1 anna.

Mombasa 31 JL 1902, London 22 AU 02, New York 8-30 1902, Newark AUG 31 1902
Uganda Combination Cover

Until Uganda was admitted to the UPU in 1901 Uganda stamps were only valid for postage within Uganda. BEA stamps were added for external postage.

White Fathers, Catholic missionaries, mail to their founder in Algeria was forwarded by their agent in Mombasa, Smith Mackenzie & Co. Pertinent features of the cover:

- Earliest recorded use of the Smith Mackenzie & Co. oval handstamp.
- Inverted 'S' in annas of the 2½ annas ‘Small Queen’ definitive.
- Blue Mombasa cancel only used from August through October 1898.

Backstamped:
Zanzibar 14 OC 98
Suez 7 XI 98
Maison-Carrée 11 NOV 98
Alger 13 NOV 98
Uganda Combination Cover

Postal Rate Transition

The ‘Empire Penny Post’ was implemented in British East Africa on December 25, 1898 but the implementation in Uganda was delayed until March 1899. Thus, this cover was overpaid when it reached Mombasa.

The 4 annas Uganda postage paid for a 1 ounce letter from Kampala to Kikuyu. The 7½ annas paid the treble letter rate from British East Africa to Great Britain at the pre- ‘Empire Penny Post’ rates; the new rate, in effect when the cover reached Mombasa, was 3 annas.

The cover is addressed by Archdeacon Robert Henry Walker, the highest ranking CMS missionary in Uganda.

Kampala February 20, 1899
Mombasa March 23, 1899
Great Yarmouth April 15, 1899

The Uganda Typeset stamps are from positions 1 and 5 in the pane of 16.
‘On Zanzibar’ Provisional Issue, 1897

Zanzibar stamps issued in December 1896 were overprinted by the Zanzibar Gazette and issued in January 1897.

Correctly franked cover, seven annas to pay double letter rate of 5 annas plus 2 annas registration, to C.A. Cole, a dealer in Colchester, England.

Mombasa 21 June 1897
Wrong font s, sans serif, in British on the 2 annas stamp
'On Zanzibar' Errors

**Bri for British:** type fell out of the form, or was obscured, in one position during overprinting of the 5 and 7 ½ annas stamps. Maximum of 30 examples of each since only 30 sheets were overprinted.

Inverted V for A in Africa: probably from sheet position 1. B in British is also dropped.

Inverted s in British:

No dot over i in British:
On Zanzibar’ Errors

**Double overprint**: British East Africa doubled on 1 anna with surcharge Type A

Overprints offset ½ mm

![Image](image1)

Unused

2 recorded

**Coincidental**

![Image](image2)

**Serif missing** from 4 in left value tablet.

One per sheet.

![Image](image3)

**Fraction bar missing** from 1/2 in right value tablet. One per sheet.

![Image](image4)

**Broken i in Africa**: sheet position 52

![Image](image5)

**Red overprint** From a trial printing of the 1 anna rejected in favor of the black overprint. Similar to the UPU issue but without a stop after Africa.

![Image](image6)

Type C surcharge

One of two recorded blocks
On Zanzibar’ Surcharge

Zanzibar stamps of December 1896 were overprinted and surcharged by the Zanzibar Gazette and issued in January 1897. The surcharge was done in three different fonts; each sheet of 60 stamps contained all three types as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2½</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>2 1 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2½ annas on 1 anna:

Type A

Type B

Type C

2½ annas on 3 annas:

Type A

Type B

Type C
‘On Zanzibar’ Usage

4½ annas was the correct franking for a ½ ounce registered letter to Canada; 2½ annas postage plus 2 annas registration fee. Assuming the sender did not notice the 1 anna stamp had been surcharged the cover is correctly franked and thus probably not philatelic. As such, it is the only recorded commercial cover with un-surcharged ‘On Zanzibar’ provisionals and one of only five commercial covers with the surcharged 1 annas provisional.

Mombasa NO 16 97, backstamped Zanzibar 23 NO 97 and Winnipeg DE 30 97

2½ annas surcharge, T13, on the 1 anna ‘On Zanzibar’ provisional
'Large Queen’ Definitive Issue, 1897

Large format rupee values were introduced to clearly differentiate high value stamps. Printed by De La Rue & Co., on Crown CC watermarked paper. Six printings of the 1 rupee value allowed significant color variations.

Watermark reversed errors:

Mombasa 17 SP 98
Blue cancel

PF 58506
‘Large Queen’ Specimen Overprints

750 sets with the Specimen Overprint were invoiced by De La Rue on 25 October 1897.

Watermark Reversed
Most rupee value stamps were used for fiscal purposes, however some were used for postage on parcels. The blue Mombasa cancel was only used from late August to mid-October 1898.
UPU Printing: ‘On India’

To supply the UPU with the required 730 examples of the provisional issue and surcharges a special printing was made some months after the original issue, probably in March of 1897 and distributed by the UPU on April 24. The three large rupee value stamps were printed in a type similar to the low values, a smaller type than the issued stamps. The surcharge was done in three font types similar to the ‘On Zanzibar’ surcharges and in a brown-red ink rather than the red of the original printing.

Double overprint
one albino

$2\frac{1}{2}$
Type A

$2\frac{1}{2}$
Type B

$2\frac{1}{2}$
Type C
UPU Printing: ‘On Zanzibar’

To supply the UPU with the required 730 examples of the provisional issue and surcharges a special printing was made about a year after the original issue, probably in December of 1897. The UPU printings have a stop (period) after Africa. The surcharged stamps also have the surcharge located below the overprint rather than centered on the stamp as on the issued stamps.

Se-tenant strips of the surcharge types are possible in three combinations from a sheet.
UPU Printing; ‘On Zanzibar’ Errors

**2 over 1 in the fraction.** Occurs once per sheet\(^1\) only with the Type C surcharge.

![Stamps showing 2 over 1 in the fraction]

- **4 recorded**
- **5 recorded**

**Surcharge doubled, one albino.**
Type A surcharge on 3 annas. Offset on back.

![Stamps showing surcharge doubled, one albino]

- **2 of 3 recorded**

**Diagonal fraction bar,** occurs once per sheet only with the Type A surcharge.

![Stamps showing diagonal fraction bar]

**Missing serif.** 4 in left value tablet is missing the serif on the right hand side. Occurs once per sheet.

![Stamps showing missing serif]

**Missing fraction bar.** ½ in right value tablet is missing the fraction bar. Occurs once per sheet.

![Stamps showing missing fraction bar]

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\(^1\) At 60 stamps per sheet, 13 sheets of each value were most likely overprinted to provide the 730 examples for the UPU.