

MOZAMBIQUE COMPANY AFTER NOVEMBER 1918

Archival material, stamps and usages of the 1918-1941 issues of Mozambique Company.

Purpose: This exhibit examines the 1918-1941 stamp issues of the **Mozambique Company** (*Companhia de Moçambique*), known to the Portuguese as *Território de Manica e Sofala* (**Territory of Manica and Sofala**, see map at right), two of the eleven provinces forming the colony of Moçambique. When the Company took over the two provinces, they established their own postal system and issued their own stamps. The stamps are presented in various forms along with postal usages. Printing quantities shown were obtained from various sources. All the provinces shown in the map formed the colony (now country) of Mozambique.

Difficulty of Acquisition: Despite the requirement in the Company's charter to **provide schools** for the natives, **little had been accomplished**. The **literacy rate** in Portuguese East Africa was **extremely low**. Various sources estimate it **between ½% and 3%**. During World War I, an estimated 4,900 non-natives lived in the territory. In 1921, there were an estimated 6200 non-natives in the 52,000 square mile area, about the size of South Carolina. The natives were mostly illiterate. Correspondence was generated by the few non-natives. The 1930 census counted 7200 non-natives and 334,000 natives within the Company's territorial boundaries. **Most used stamps are canceled-to-order. Genuine postally used copies are scarce.** The early material is elusive. Material from the period after 1930 is more easily located. Some stamps were printed in small quantities.

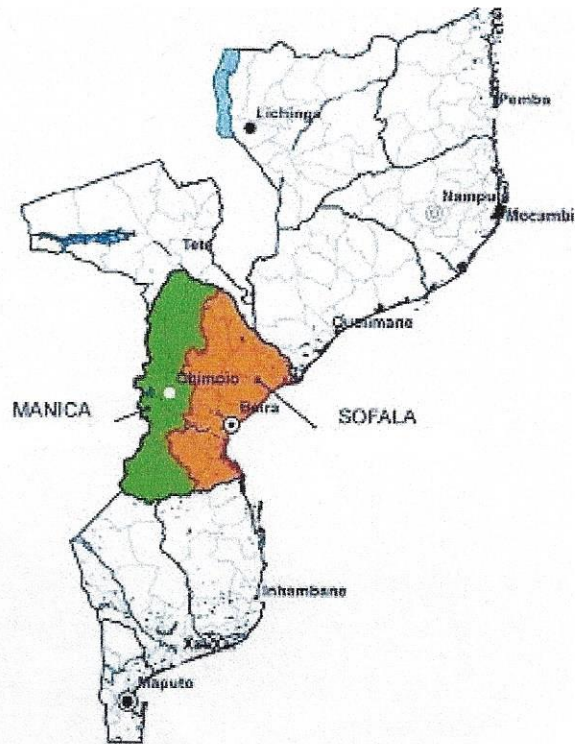
Background: During and after World War I, **agricultural products** were in **high demand** worldwide. The **demand** increased throughout the **ensuing years**. This **produced a need** for additional **economic expansion** in East Africa, causing a **search** by company directors for sources of **new investment funds**.

The development sequence started with a request for a new series of stamps to replace the existing Elephant series, which had been in use since 1895. **Waterlow & Sons** was **selected to develop the new stamps**.

The Mozambique Company **issues of 1918 and later** were **created** to meet **several requirements**:

- (1) provide stamps in the Portuguese Escudo currency,
- (2) **satisfy the postal needs** of multiple rate systems,
- (3) showcase regional investment opportunities, and
- (4) **promote interest** among investors and collectors.

The **stamps highlight features** of the **provinces** of Manica and Sofala; as well as **many commodities produced** for consumption around the world. The **port of Beira**, **public and commercial buildings** and the **Beira Railroad** were all featured. **Major products** shown were sugar and copra. **Lesser commodities** included minerals, corn, rubber, tobacco, rice, coffee, oranges, ivory, cotton, sisal, coconuts, tea and cattle. Usages displayed in the exhibit are shown in chronological order.



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Exhibit Plan:

1. 1918 issue.
 - 1a. 1920 Provisional issue.
 - 1b. 1921-24 additions to the 1918 series.
2. Postage Due issue and usage.
3. 1918-1924 perforation varieties.
4. 1925 reissue of 1918 issue.
5. 1925 issue.
6. 1925-31 additions produced by the Bradbury, Wilkinson and Thomas de la Rue printing companies.
7. Air Mail Forerunners.
8. Air Mail in the Mozambique Company's territory.
9. Zambezi River Bridge completion.
10. 1935 Commemorative Issue.
11. 1937 Pictorial issue.
12. 1939-1941 Commemorative issues.
13. Aftermath.

Significant items are highlighted in red.
Blue is used for postal rate comparisons.