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### The Countries of Southern and Equatorial Africa.

BY EDGAR S. BRIGHTMAN.

Everyone has heard the story of the rich ship owner who received a letter from one of the captains of his great fleet of merchant vessels, saying that his boat had undergone a very dangerous experience, and had been in great jeopardy but at last succeeded in putting into port. The wealthy, but ignorant plutocrat, thereupon got a map of the world and after searching half an hour, disgustedly said that he couldn't find "Great Jeopardy" on any map in the atlas, and if that captain of his couldn't tell him where it was, he would be immediately discharged.

By giving this anecdote I do not mean to insinuate that collectors are as ignorant of general information and geography as this ship owner—no indeed!—but there is much haziness in the minds of many concerning the exact location of a large number of stamp issuing countries, and especially is this true of the Asiatic and African nations, for there are constant shiftings of the boundary lines, and it is by no means a rare occurrence for a small country to be annexed by a more powerful neighbor. Accordingly no map remains up-to-date for many years, and a person well informed on the geography of ten or fifteen years ago would have to revise his

knowledge to keep up with the demands of the times.

Nevertheless, in spite of these obstacles, there are many cogent reasons why we should keep track of the location of stamp issuing governments, both from the obvious benefit that results from it, and also in a philatelic sense.

The present article deals with that part of Africa which seems to be least known of all. Cape Colony, the Transvaal and Orange Free State, now Orange River Colony, have been so thoroughly exploited that I pass them by, only stopping to note that British Bechuanaland is immediately west of the Transvaal, and that the two Griqualands, East and West, are situated in Cape Colony.

West of Bechuanaland and north of Cape Colony is German South West Africa, a territory large in extent but inhabited for the most part by uncivilized tribes of natives. To the west of the Transvaal, and extending up the coast more than 1200 miles, are Portuguese possessions, divided, for strictly philatelic purposes, as follows: Lorenzo Marquez (where the much desired Delagoa Bay is situated) Zambesi, Mozambique and Mozambique Company. Between these Portuguese and German possessions, north of Bechuanaland, is British South Africa, now called to help appease one man's insatiable greed for notoriety, Rhodesia.

Angola and Portuguese Congo

comprise a large area north of German South West Africa and south of Congo Free State, the largest, if not the only, nominally independent country in the Dark Continent, except the Transvaal, and that doesn't count now, Dietz to the contrary notwithstanding. East of the Congo Free State and extending nearly to the sea is German East Africa; between this and the ocean is an extending narrow strip of land nearly 1000 miles long, called Zanzibar, an English possession. North of this is British East Africa. This was formerly known as British Protectorate but the name was changed in 1890. To the north west of Lake Victoria Nyanza in this colony is Uganda with a population of 200,000. Nicaragua, Central America, has 113,000 more, besides being higher in the scale of civilization. The former presented to the admiring gaze of collectors four complete sets in the first three years after it commenced that delightful operation, keeping fully up to the record of its American rival, and yet Seebeck is a synonym for ultra speculative and Uganda conveys to the ordinary collector's mind the idea of something of fabulous wealth and altogether unattainable by us poor mortals. Oh it is a very "lamentable comedy" to see philatelists spurn the one and covet the other. Not to collect both would involve consistency, and that is really a little more than we ought to expect.

The only division remaining in that part of Africa indicated by my title is French Congo, west of Congo Free State. It is wonderful to think of all this region, which not so very long ago was practically unknown to the Caucasian, but which is now a great hive of industry where countless principalities and powers on some or no pretext, make labels by the bushel, called postage stamps, wherewith to enrich their own coffers and to deplete those of us collectors.

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