

BRITISH WEST AFRICA



1918 - SIX PENCE - OBERSE

BRITISH WEST AFRICA, COLONY of
BIRMINGHAM MINT

6 PENCE 19MM .925 FINE 2.8 GRAMS

1913	400,000	
1914	952,000	
1916	400,000	
1917	2,400,000	
1918	1,160,000	
1919	8,676,000	frozen date

▲OV: Crowned head of George V, facing left
GEORGIVS V D.G. BRITT. OMN. REX F.D. IND. IMP: (Georgivs V Dei Gratia Britanniarum Omnium Rex Fidei Defensor Indae Imperator = George V, by the grace of God, King of all the Britains, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India) around / • (dot) below, B.M. on truncation.

▲RV: 6 / PENCE within oak wreath with ribbon, below, BRITISH WEST AFRICA around / H (mintmark) / DATE below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: H = The Mint, BIRMINGHAM, Ltd.

DESIGNER: B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna

REFERENCE: Y-15, BW 8, KM-11



1918 - SIX PENCE - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: The first silver six pence struck in sterling for British West Africa were produced by the Birmingham Mint with the H mintmark starting in 1913 through 1919 for the newly formed West Africa Currency Board. The monetary unit was the West Africa pound equal to 20 shillings or 240 pence. The six pence was continued for an additional year, 1920, this time in reduced fineness of .500 silver. The Royal Mint, London also shipped out some 1913 six pence to British West Africa as a one year issue, without mintmark. British West Africa consisted of British Protectorates of Nigeria, Gambia, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone.

FOOTNOTE: Coins dated 1919 were struck; 1919 - 7,240,000 and 1920 - 1,436,000.

FOOTNOTE: Gold Coast - The Gold Coast Colony comprises the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, extending inland to an average distance of 440 miles. The total area of the colony and its dependencies is estimated at 80,235 sq. miles. The population - 1,503,386. The Castle and settlement of Elmina was founded by the Portuguese and taken from them by the Dutch. In 1618, some English merchants built a fort at Kormantyne, and subsequently many forts and factories were established. The first English Company to trade with the Gold Coast was chartered in 1662. This was succeeded in 1672 by the Royal African Company, which enlarged and strengthened Cape Coast Castle until it was the best on the coast. Gold is found in considerable quantities. The principal exports; cocoa, gold, lumber, rubber, palm kernels, and kola nuts. The chief imports are textiles, alcohol, and hardware. *Whitaker's Almanack, London, 1914.*



BRITISH WEST AFRICA, COLONY of BIRMINGHAM MINT			
6 PENCE	19MM	.500 FINE	2.8 GRAMS

1920 2,948,000

▲OV: Crowned head of George V, facing left
 GEORGIVS V D.G.BRITT:OMN:REX F.D.IND:IMP: (Georgivs V Dei
 Gratia Britanniarum Omnium Rex Fidei Defensor Indae Imperator =
 George V, by the grace of God, King of all the Britians, Defender
 of the Faith, Emperor of India) around / • (dot) below, B.M. on
 truncation.

▲RV: 6 / PENCE within oak wreath with ribbon, below,
 BRITISH WEST AFRICA around / H (mintmark) / 1920 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: H = The Mint, BIRMINGHAM, Ltd.

DESIGNER: B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna

REFERENCE: Y-15B, BW12, KM-11a



West Africa trading fort

FOOTNOTE: Gambia - The West African river Gambia, which is navigable for some 300 miles from its mouth, was discovered by the Portuguese in 1447; and in 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada, Queen Elizabeth, being then at war with Spain and Portugal, gave a charter to a British Company to trade with the Gambia and as early as 1618 an effort to do so was made, but it was not successful. In 1686 a fort was built upon a rocky island, and, in honor of the new King, was named Fort James. The Colony of the Gambia was created in 1843 of the Island of St. Mary, British Kombo, Albreda, the Ceded Mile, MacCarthy Island, and various other islands and territories on the banks of the (Gambia) river. The total area is estimated at 4,000 sq. miles. The population of the Island of St. Mary, at the census of April 2, 1911, was 7,700, and that of the Protectorate, 138,401. *Whitaker's Almanack, London, 1914.*

FOOTNOTE: Sierra Leone - The peninsula of Sierra Leone (Lion Mountain) was ceded to Great Britain in 1787 by the native chiefs, to be used as an asylum for the many destitute negroes then in England; and great numbers of liberated Africans from North America and the West Indies, besides those taken in slavers on the coast, have from time to time been settled there. The extreme length of the Colony is about 210 miles, with an estimated area of 4,000 sq. miles. The population in 1911 amounted to 75,572, of whom 650 were resident Europeans. Of the rest, more than half were liberated Africans and their descendants, while the remainder belonged to the neighboring tribes. The liberated Africans were brought from all parts of Africa, and as a result no less than 60 different languages are said to be spoken in Freetown. The exports are palm-oil, palm-kernels and kola nuts; but ginger, ground nuts, india-rubber, gum-copal, hides, beeswax, and rice are also exported. The principal imports are cotton goods, coal, apparel, hardware, provisions and tobacco. A Protectorate was proclaimed on August 31, 1896. It has an area of about 27,000 square miles and a population estimated at 1,327,569. Freetown, the capital and seat of government, is the greatest seaport and has the finest harbor in West Africa. *Whitaker's Almanack, London, 1914.*

BRITISH WEST AFRICA, COLONIES of LONDON MINT			
6 PENCE	19MM	.925 FINE	2.8 GRAMS

1913 560,000

▲OV: Crowned head of George V, facing left
 GEORGIVS V D.G.BRITT:OMN:REX F.D.IND:IMP: (Georgivs V Dei
 Gratia Britanniarum Omnium Rex Fidei Defensor Indae Imperator =
 George V, by the grace of God, King of all the Britians, Defender
 of the Faith, Emperor of India) around / • (dot) below, B.M. on
 truncation.

▲RV: 6 / PENCE within oak wreath with ribbon, below,
 BRITISH WEST AFRICA around / 1913 below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = Royal Mint, LONDON

DESIGNER: B.M. = Sir Edgar Bertram MacKenna

REFERENCE: Y-15, KM-11

FOOTNOTE: Nigeria - The Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria includes the territories situated on the Bight of Benin. The area of the whole territory is 80,000 sq. miles, and the population roughly 8,000,000. The chief industry is agriculture, and crops consist of cocoa, maize, plantains, earth-nuts, yams and cassava, while coffee and cotton are also grown. The natural products exported are palm oil and kernels, gum copal and rubber, and the export of cocoa, cotton and maize is steadily increasing. A railway has been constructed from Iddo Island, near Lagos, to Zungern, the capital of Northern Nigeria, a distance of about 429 miles, crossing the Niger at Jebba. The Protectorate of Northern Nigeria was established on January 1, 1900 and includes the northern portion of the territories formerly administered by the Royal Niger Company. It is bounded on the south by Southern Nigeria, to the west and north by the French possessions in the hinterland of Dahomey and the Sudan, and on the east by Lake Chad and the German territory of the Cameroons. The area is about 256,000 square miles. The population has been estimated at about 9,000,000. *Whitaker's Almanack, London, 1914.*

FOOTNOTE: At the turn of the century, perhaps nothing furnishes a better and more deplorable illustration of the state of affairs than the African liquor trade. Not only frequently, but well-nigh invariably, the ship that bears one or two missionaries to convert the african, carries also thousands of gallons of rum to damn him. This comes principally from Boston, whose rum and religion constitute a puzzle which Africans and philanthropists have tried in vain to solve. "When I was introduced to the black Ashantis, they were informed that I was an American, 'Ah melican man, eh?' said the Chief, 'Melican lum plenty good, you got melican lum?' This was all he knew of America. I could not elicit anything more about my country from him than this testimony to the far-reaching influence of New England culture. During a recent period of four years 30,000,000 gallons of strong drink were shipped from Europe and America to help in the work of civilizing Africa! Missionaries assert that their worst enemy is not witchcraft, native depravity, licentiousness, nor race-old superstitions, but rum from their own civilized lands! *Daybreak in the Dark Continent, W.S.Naylor, 1905.*

