

Angola

CENSORED MAIL.

DEVELOPMENT.

During the First and Second World Wars, mail was checked by the authorities to make sure that no information passed through the post that could be used by any of the combatants - in particular, by the enemy. Ink cancels were applied to indicate that the mail had been checked by the authorities and contained no information that could harm the war effort. With letters, specially marked tape was used to reseal the opened section.

PROTUGUESE CENSOR TAPES AND MARKS.

The wording of tapes and marks is ABERTO (opened) PASSADO or PASSOU (past or present PELA CENSURA. The first tape in use was a reddish-brown tape 108 by 20mm and dates from 1916. The first handstamp in use was also around 1916 and was a double circle stamp with the same words as on the first tape, namely, PASSADO PELA CENSURA.



FOREIGN CENSOR TAPES AND MARKS

As Angolan mail moved through surrounding countries (eg., Belgium Congo, South Africa), Britain and the Commonwealth, and the Americas, numerous tapes and marks were applied, particularly for Second World War mail. Letters may be opened multiple times with multiple tapes applied.

