

ANGOLA

The postal issues of Portuguese Angola and Congo



304. Loanda

Cidade Baixa — Vista sobre a fortaleza

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The Stamps of ANGOLA

INTRODUCTION

The kingdom of Kongo was a powerful African kingdom that started to trade with the Portuguese from the early 1500's, slowly focusing on the slave trade. The ending of the slave trade in the 19th century impoverished the kingdom, and then, with increased settlement, the kingdom became part of the Portuguese empire. The boundaries of the colony were not formalised until the early 20th century, officially declared as an integral part of Portugal in 1935 and an overseas province in 1951. Development continued apace, including major railways, but was hindered by the anti-colonial struggle that commenced in 1961. The Angolan people gained independence in 1975, but sadly, a protracted civil war between the MPLA and UNITA impoverished the nation. The civil war continued till 2002.

The Postal service developed in line with the development of the colony, with the first stamp issued in 1870.



Wikipedia.

CATALOGUES

A useful catalogue is the one produced by Eladio de Santos, although now out of print, although easily obtained second hand; of course, it is in Portuguese. One of the best is *Selos Postais Das Ex-Colonias Portuguesas*, 1991, originally published by Afinsa, with technical assistance from Nucleo Filatelico do Ateneu Comercial do Porto, a brilliant, highly specialised catalogue, that advanced the work already undertaken by the *Catalogo Simoes Ferreira, de Selos Postais de Portugal e Ultramar*. Today, Portuguese collectors tend to use *Mundifil, Selos Postais Colonia Portuguesas*. English collectors tend to look to Gibbons, the latest specialised edition for Portugal and Colonies was published in 2022. For post-Independence issues, Portuguese speaking collectors will often use the *Catalogo Especializado Selos Palop* by Antonio Romao for Angola, published in 2007, while English speaking collectors will use Gibbons simplified, or Scott.

VALUES

In these notes, three ratings are used to define rarity:

R = rouch;

RR = I will have to save for this;

RRR = I'm not going to tell my wife what this cost.

STAMP ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations tend to be of stamps that have done postal service; this is a personal preference for the real value of a stamp in having performed postal service, and also for the study of postal marks.

SOURCE INFORMATION

The information provided in these notes is derived from many sources, but primarily that of the International Society of Portuguese Philately. Naturally, the notes seek to be as accurate as possible, but on this subject, perfection is a forlorn hope.

PAGE FORMATION

Page formatting in these notes will often *Album Para Selos Angola e Congo*, Eladio de Santos - no longer in print.