

Angola

THE EMERGENCY AIR MAIL LABELS OF 1945

ISSUE

The issue was printed by the Impresa Nacional de Angola. It consisted of 30 Values. 0.90Ag - 27Ag. Increments of 0.90Ags. The stamps were issued to service an agreement between the postal authorities and the Division of Air Transport to provide payment for ordinary mail to travel airmail. The issue remained in service from 1945 to the middle of 1947, and was covered by Order de Servico No. 13 April 27, 1945 - the first day of Issue.

DESTINATION

Ail mail traveled to LUANDA. (One example only found from Luanda to Lobito)

TRANSIT CENTERS WITH AIRPORTS

MOSSAMEDES; SA da BANDEIRA with suburb Lubango; BENGUELA with rail link to Villa Robert Williams. Nova Lisboa, Bela Viste, Silva Porto and Camacupa; LOBITO with suburb Catumbela and rail link to the above; NOVA REDONDO with Vila Novo do Seles; PORTO AMBOIM with rail link to Gabela and possible air link to Gabela; LUANDA; AMBRIZETE; A. ANTONIO do ZAIRE; CABINDA; LANDANA

RATES

The service was offered thrice weekly at a cost of 0.90Ags. for each 5 grams plus basic letter rate of 0.50 Ags. for each 20 grams with Charity Tax (Assistencia) of 0.50 Ags added over the allotted tax period

FRANKING

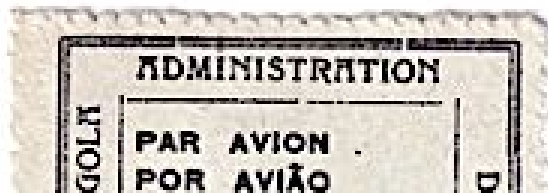
The majority of letters were franked with 0.90, 1.80, 2.70 and 3.60. ie., the four lowest value stamps. Stamps used tend to be i) Imperio. ii) Postal due used as stamps. iii) Combination of i and ii. iv) Surcharged Imperio. v) Reprinted Ceres

STATUS

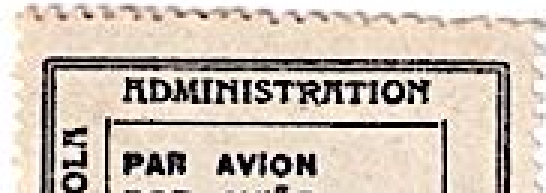
They are 'fee collected" air service labels known as "Angola grays".

FORGERIES

These were produced by Casa Molder. Clean, irregular, hand-made perforations. Casa A Molder was a well-known Portuguese stamp dealer in Lisbon and produced the fake labels to allow collectors to put at least something of the issue in their albums. They are very well produced, and are easily identifiable. The perforation is irregular, and the original boxing has breaks in it. With the Molder fake, the printer took more care, so there are no breaks in the boxing. Also, fake copies of the original exist identified by perforation.



Original with broken boarders



Molder forgerey

ACCEPTANCE

The Angolan GRAY LABELS are only listed in Michel, Sanabris and Sillombra and for this reason few collectors are aware of their existence or status. The Gray Labels were used only inside Angola, and in most instances, senders had to bring letters to the Post Office for weighing and the postal clerk would then apply the grey label accordingly They were thus not actually sold to the public as stamps. Also, it was not possible to openly buy these labels in mint sheets, or in fact in any large quantity. This further limited their standing and availability. Only as they were being phased out did an enterprising dealer obtain some 200 sets for sale to the market. After this, remnants were purchased, but in very small quantities. Status is therefore questionable, although rarity is assured. In 2021 a full set of used labels was offered on eBay, reaching US \$550. High value mint examples go for hundreds of dollars. In 2021 a full set of used labels was offered on eBay, reaching US \$550. High value mint examples go for hundreds of dollars on eBay.

1945. Sobretaxa do Correio Aereo, perf. 11

