

# ANGOLA

Popular Republic 1975



F. D. C. - 1.º DIA EMISSÃO

Independence  
1975



Masks  
1976



Workers' Day  
1976



Map Overprinted  
1976



Map and Shells Stamps Overprinted  
1977



# Angolan Independence 1974

## GENERAL ISSUES

The Angolan postal service continued a conservative and well run service through the early years of independence, but the civil war and corruption slowly eroded its coverage and effectiveness. The service initially limited the sales of higher denomination stamps to stop the flight of currency from the country. Up till the early 90's, issues tended to be for postal usage, but then postage tended to use the definitive native art series, and later the ceramic art definitive set of 1995. After 1995, thematic agency material began to be added to the regular issues of the Angolan postal service. These issues were never intended for postage service in Angola and are best viewed as philatelic labels. By 2000 these rubbish issues dominated the postal issues of Angola, serving only to raise funds for a country suffering financially due to the implosion of socialist economic policies and civil war. The quantity of thematic issues, totally unrelated to life in Angola, led many traditional collectors to stop saving the stamps of Angola. Serious collectors tend to compartmentalise the philatelic agency souvenir sheets from the few individual stamp sets issued over 1997-2000.

Used stamps of Angola have always been in plentiful supply, and this continued through the early independence years, but increasingly the definitive mask art series and later, the 1995 ceramic art series dominated postal usage, with commemorative issues receiving little use. Even the definitives receded in use as mechanical franking and mechanical franked labels began to take over. Collectors usually do not bother saving used stamps of Angola beyond 1995.

Both the end of the UNITA insurgency in 2002 and the adoption of a winner-take-all form of capitalism, restored the nations finances, although not for the poor. A conservative issuing policy was again adopted, running through to 2017 with the release of a set of 6 stamps + 1 souvenir sheet celebrating the 40th anniversary of the introduction of the Kwanza, the currency of Angola. None-the-less, these issues did little postal service, with mechanical franking and mechanical franked labels by now the dominant method of franking letters and parcels.

The damage done to collectors during the first rogue agency period had caused an exodus of Angolan collectors and thus, a reduced sale of new stamp issues. It became increasingly uneconomic producing new issues for a shrinking market. This is a shame because the issues over the years 2000 to 2017 period were of high quality, and were very much related to the life of Angola and Africa as a whole. This led to the Second Rogue Agency period, 2018-19 and a wave of topical issues for the philatelic trade. These labels are well produced, but have little relevance to Angola and its people, and again, were not intended for postal use. The utterly absurd quantity of issues caused another flight of collectors. Serious collectors tend to compartmentalise these issues from their main collection, saving one or two sets for reference purposes.

A conservative issuing policy was again resumed by Correios de Angola but by now the few remaining Angolan stamp collectors made the production of new commemorative issues uneconomic. We hope that the commemorative set issued in 2021 for Angola's involvement in the Dubai World Expo is not its final sawn-song.

## QUESTIONABLE ISSUES

In 1994, two sets were issued celebrating the Anniversary of the investiture of President Eduardo Dos Santos, ES.676-677, and 678-679, but were withdrawn, and then only partially released. The first set, bearing images of the president on a red background, is often not included

in catalogues, or printed stamp pages. This set is now in now commonly listed for sale and usually sells for around \$25 US.



In 2004 a number of African countries released an 8 stamp sheetlet of birds in hexagonal format. It seems that the Angolan set was not officially approved for postal service, so its status remains unclear. It is not listed in the catalogues, but is now commonly listed for sale. It sells for many hundreds of dollars.



#### PORTUGUESE ANGOLA OVERPRINTS

The following list sets out the full number stamps overprinted. Three major overprint errors occur on the 10\$00 Map issue on each full sheet of 100 stamps. A forged overprint (although possibly a test run rejected as printer's waste) is found on the \$30 shell stamps in both red and black, INDEPENDENCIA / 11 Nov 75.



1977. Map overprint - See the three major overprint errors below.

10e

1978. Map and Shells. Republica Popular de

20e

25e

30e

50e

1977 Sport overprint. S Silvestre Rep. Popular de

15e

1980 Stamp Centenary. Republica Popular de  
2.50e  
4.50e

1981 Satellite. Bar only  
2e

1981 Shells. Bar only  
1e  
1.5e  
2e  
3.5e  
4e  
5e  
6e  
7e  
10e  
25e  
30e  
35e  
40e

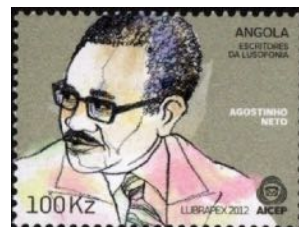
#### MARKET AND SUPPLY

Other than the 1995 gold leaf Rotary anniversary issue, Scott 937 (market price usually around \$50 - prices are estimates and are in US dollars), pre 2000 mint, and pre 1990 used, are in plentiful supply and are not very expensive. Of course, a premium price is always paid for a clean crisp cancelled stamp. Things changed when thematic agency material was added to the normal issues of the Postal service. Mint thematic material covering the 1996-2000 agency period is in plentiful supply and inexpensive for those who want to collect it (I keep an incomplete lot in a separate album). Postal sets covering Angolan topics retain value, although still inexpensive, but the topical material will often get dumped on the market and so sell cheaply. Only a few issues gain a premium, eg., the Titanic mint sheet gains a premium due to the subject, but even then it doesn't get over \$10.

Due to the quantity of thematic agency material, many collectors gave up saving the new Issues of Angola. This increased the supply of pre 2000 independence stamps on the market and suppressed prices, but conversely affected the production runs of post 2000 stamps, producing the opposite price effect. Many sets covering the years 2001 to 2017 now demand a premium. Some souvenir sheet and stamp sets are hard to find, and when offered for sale, they head for the \$20 mark, often well over the Scott value (eg., OPEC 2006, peace 2013, + \$20). Stamp World values are closer to reality, but even then, they undervalue many sets, evidenced by the fact that these issues are rarely offered for sale on their site. So, quite a few sets of this era are not immediately available, but sooner or later they are offered for sale, outright or for auction, so there is no need for panic; they are not rare.

The most expensive stamp of this period is the 2012 Lubrapex issue, part of the AICEP Portuguese language omnibus issues from Portugal, Brazil and the former Portuguese colonies.

These issues have become popular with Portuguese collectors who like to buy a full set to link in with the Portuguese issue. For the 2012 Lubrapex Stamp Exhibition issue, all participated in the omnibus issue for the first time. For the 2015 AICEP issue, all but Angola and Timor Leste participated, with the Mozambique issue ending up in short supply. Since then, participation has fallen away. So, the 2012 set is the highpoint and is highly sought after. In 2024, the Timor Leste stamp was selling for \$50, Guinea Bissau \$40, and as for Angola, it never seemed to hit market. One Portuguese dealer I spoke with said he had only ever seen two of the stamps in recent years. For some reason, they were not released through the normal agency channels, but were released locally (possibly even privately). So, they didn't even get listed in some catalogues. The stamp is best treated as an anomaly, and simply ignored.



The second agency period occurred in 2018 when issues produced by Stamperija hit the market. These present as a mint sheet + 4 stamps illustrating every African animal you can think of, and then some (threw in a dinosaur for good measure) plus a few trains and ships for the kiddies. They are well produced, but virtually print on demand amounting to some 30 sets, Scott 1420-1569. A similar production rate ensued in 2019, some 28 sets of 4 stamps + 1 souvenir sheet, Scott 1576-1715, covering the usual thematic topics. The sets are in plentiful supply, but overpriced, although some thematic issues are trending. It is unclear what will happen to the value of these issues in the ensuing years, given that many serious collectors are simply not adding them to their collection. If collectors continue to ignore them, they will not trend, but then, as sometimes happens, if collectors decide in the future to collect them, they will be in short supply and gain a premium - such is life! The only issues with any relevance are a seasonal set of personalised stamps, Scott 1570-1573, a UNESCO issue for the Luanda Biennial Pan African Forum, a sheetlet of 4 + 1 souvenir sheet, 2019, and the MS and sheetlet celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Moon landing.

Stamp issues from the Correios de Angola since then have been very limited. For many countries, the damage done by the Covid virus has hastened the death of the production of postage stamps and the posting of letters. The production of stamps is no longer profitable, as is the delivery of letters itself. Postal authorities around the world focus on parcel delivery now and happily watch their letter delivery wither on the vine. Issues since 1019:

2020, None

2021, Flora, the Baobab Flower, set of 3 + 1 souvenir sheet;

2021, Suspension of Sport due to Covid 19, 2 stamps, 2 souvenir sheets.  
+ Sheetlet and booklet.



2021, Covid Pandemic, 1 set of 4, 1 set of 2, each with a souvenir sheet.  
+ Sheetlet and booklet.

2021, Dubai Expo 2020, 1 sheetlet of 4 + 1 souvenir sheet.

2022 /23, None

# THE THREE MAJOR MAP OVERPRINT ERRORS

