

CROWNS. 1870-77

ISSUE

The basic design used for the first set of stamps for all the Portuguese colonies was that of a crown. It was the work of Augusto Fernando Gerard. The stamps were the product of coloured typography and printed by the State Mint (Casa da Moeda) in Lisbon. The issue was produced in sheets of 28 stamps, seven rows of four stamps in each. The stamps were sent gummed from Lisbon to the Colonies, but because of the humid climate in places like Angola, the stamps stuck together and had to be soaked in water to be separated. Therefore, many mint Crown stamps are found without gum. The perforation of the Royal Crown design is box perforation 12.5 by 13.5 using the Harrow System. This system continued up into the modern era. Some stamp values present in two different die designations known as plate I and plate II. Some of these plate variations are rare. Only where necessary is plate identification indicated. The classic stamps of Angolan often present with different colour shades, but are not worthy of separate classification. Virtually every stamp has at least two identifiable shade differences. Sometimes the difference is caused by a slight change in pigment, but it is usually down to density or ageing.

REPRINTS

Official Government reprints were made in 1885 and 1905 using the original plates. See below.

FORGERIES

Primarily Fournier, along with Spiro; See below.

PROOFS

Stamps in other colours with the royal Crown on a white background.

RARITY

In these notes, three ratings are used to define rarity, R, RR, RRR = ouch, I will have to save for this, and finally, there is no way I'm going to tell my wife what this cost. The thick paper crowns are ouch! Condition greatly affects price.

First Printing. 1870.

Thick paper. Perforation, 12.5

5
10
20
25
50
100

Later Printings. 1875-77.

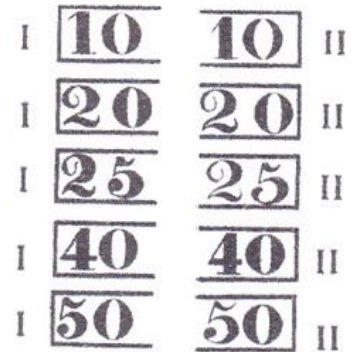
Perforation, 12.5, Medium paper.

5
10
20

25
40. R
50
100
200
300

Perforation, 13.5, Medium paper.

5
10 Plate I
10 Plate II
20. RR
25
40 Plate I. RRR
40 Plate II. R
50. R
100
200
300



Perforation, 14, Medium paper.

Illustration Afinsa

NOTES

25r 12.5p exists in a vertical laid paper.
40r 13.5p, Plate I, was not regularly issued.

1870/77 — Tipo Coroa. Dent. $12\frac{1}{2}$ ou $13\frac{1}{2}$



1881/85 — Idem, cores substituídas



CROWNS. 1881-85

COLOUR CHANGES

Colour changes were caused by the colour regulations of the Universal Postal Union, which introduced three colours for the most important mailing rates. Green was for stamps used on printed matter up to 50oms (10 reis), red was for simple International postal cards (20 reis) and blue for the simple international letter (50 reis). The other colours in the Crown set had to be changed to fit into this new colour scheme. There were least two printing runs using the original dies from the earlier Crown issues. Some damage can be observed on the dies due to rough handling As the printing proceeded, the dies deteriorated. Later printings can be noted by the loss of the jewels at the base of the right arch of the crown. Two plates were used in the printing and can be identified from the 20n and 50r stamps.

ERRORS

In the first printing of the 20r rose, a cliché of 40r was inserted. This was found out before the stamps were issued and was cancelled in indelible pencil.



Cliche error

Perforation, 12.5, Medium paper. Shades.

10		
20 Plate I		
20 Plate II	I	10 10 II
25	I	20 20 II
40	I	25 25 II
50 Plate I	I	40 40 II
50 Plate II	I	50 50 II

Perforation, 13.5. Medium paper. Shades

10
25
40
50

CROWN REPRINTS

HISTORY.

Reprints were produced by the State Mint in Lisbon to meet demands by stamp collectors for earlier stamp issues. The printing used original blocks, or touched up blocks, and are sometimes difficult to identify.

THE FIRST REPRINT. 1865.

Sometimes called the UPU reprints. Following the ruling of the UPU 1076 and confirmed at the Lisbon congress in 1885, all members were to send to the bureau in Burn enough copies of each stamp in use to allow member countries to possess copies of each issue. As the Lisbon mint did not have sufficient stamps on hand, it was decided to reprint them. Old cliches were used in the previous arrangement of 28 (7 by 4). Full sheets or blocks were rarely sold. They were printed on thick, porous, milk white paper, perforated 12.5 and 13.5 with clear cut holes, but producing ragged tares. Usually ungummed, but sometimes with white gum having yellow spots. The colour shades are dull and lustreless. Some sets were overprinted. i) 20mm long bar ii) "PROVA" two sizes iii) "SPECIMEN", these overprints are rare

THE SECOND REPRINT. 1905.

Sometimes called the King of Spain reprints. On the occasion of the visit of the King of Spain, Alfonso XIII to Lisbon in 1905, a second reprint of Portuguese stamps was undertaken. Special packs were prepared containing a complete collection of the existing stamps, the packs being made up of reprints and originals still in stock. Printing was undertaken in panes of six stamps, 2 by 3, with one row inverted. Only limited numbers of these were produced. The bulk were overprinted "SPECIMEN". These reprints are on brittle ivory paper and have shiny white gum. The colours are very pale in relation to the originals. The perforations run to a point and are larger than the originals.

CROWNS. 1870-77, 1885 reprint run.

- 5 p.12.5 & 13.5
- 10 p.12.5 & 13.5
- 20 p.13.5
- 25 p.12.5 & 13.5
- 40 p.12.5 & 13.5
- 50 p.13.5
- 100 p.12.5 & 13.5
- 200 p.13.5
- 300 p.12.5 & 13.5

CROWNS. 1870-77. 1905 reprint run, 13.5

- 5
- 10
- 20

25
40
50
100
200
300

CROWNS. 1881-85. 1885 and 1905 Reprints, perf. 13.5, Plate 2.

10
20
40 Also in Plate 1. Imperf. 1885, and perf. 13.5 in 1905.
50

LUIS. 1886 1905 Reprints.

5.
10.
20

LUIS. 1902 Surcharges. 1905 Reprints.

130/50
400/5
400/20
400/25

1885



1905



CROWN FORGERIES

FOURNIER.

HISTORY. Fournier sold his stamps as reproductions quite openly, for those collectors who wished to fill album spaces economically. He produced every "Crown" issue and sold them as complete sets between 1894 and 1914. His forgeries used an original crown to work off. The Angolan forgeries are therefore the hardest to identify. His printing method was lithograph.

IDENTIFICATION.

- i) A lithograph printing rather than typographic.
- ii) Wide margins. +24mm.
- iii) Line perforated 12.5, with small clean holes that tend not to meet exactly at the corners. Original comb perforating meets exactly with larger rough holes.
- iv) Die differences. Primarily the curl on the corner design under the "N" of ANGOLA turns more on the originals than in the forgeries. The cross on the crown in the originals has a more "Maltese" look about it.

Fournier Forgery

Original



SALES BOOKS. Fournier produced sales books with samples of country by country issues overprinted FAUX. For the Crown issues, it included cancellations and a cliché error pair. See incomplete example below

SPIRO.

IDENTIFICATION. These forgeries were printed by Spiro in Italy on bright, white, thin paper, with pin perforation of 13. Printing method is lithograph. Colour bright with no gum. They represent a poor forgery and are easily identified.

- i) The curl under the "N" of ANGOLA is very flat
- ii) There is no shading around the title block ANGOLA".

Fournier Cliche error forgery

Spiro forgery



1870-1875

Fournier Forgeries

ANGOLA



Oblitérations

Surcharge sur timbres 1893

