

## SPANISH GUINEA

Fernando Poo was discovered by Portugal in 1472 and named after the expedition leader Fernao do Po, although the local name of the island, Bioko, is again in more general use today. The island was acquired by Spain in 1778 in exchange for recognition of de facto expanded boundaries made by Portuguese settlers in Brazil. Between 1827-1843 the British leased naval bases as part of their anti-slavery patrols. In the 19th century palm oil, and later cocoa, were the main export crops, with coffee and timber taking a larger share in the early 20th century. Agricultural production was labour intensive and required indentured labour imported from Liberia and neighbouring countries.

Spain had from the 19th century laid claim to large areas of the Bight of Biafra, but had largely failed to settle the lands. France had successfully encroached with their colonies of Cameroun and Gabon, and the Treaty of Paris of 1900 left Spain with only the enclave of Rio Muni.

From 1926 Fernando Poo was joined with Rio Muni on the mainland, to form the colony of Spanish Guinea. The majority of revenue stamp issues were used in both Fernando Poo and Rio Muni, but certain issues were inscribed for use in one region only and are therefore listed in the regional sections at the end. The islands of Elobey, Annobon and Corsico had separate colonial status until 1909 when they joined Spanish Guinea. Separate revenue issues for these islands are not known.

Under pressure of postwar anti-colonial feeling, Spanish Guinea was uprated from "colony" to "province" of Spain, but only a minority benefited, as most local people had no rights of property or freedom of movement outside the territory.

In 1968 the territory was granted independence as Equatorial Guinea. From 1970 the country was a one-party state, marked by violence and oppression, and until the 1980s supported by Russia, Cuba and China.

In 1995 an American company discovered oil, and this led to a nominal realignment with the West. Equatorial Guinea became substantially richer, although most of the wealth remained linked to the presidential family and entourage, and the gulf between rich and poor has increased dramatically.

## SPANISH GUINEA REVENUE - MOVIL

Issues to 1900 were inscribed FERNANDO POO.



1896. Large Arms design, dated 1896. Imperf.

1. 10c carmine ..... 35.00

x

1897. Large Arms design, dated 1897. Imperf.

2. 10c green ..... 250.00



1897. Issue of 1896, with straightline "1897" ovpt. Imperf.

3. 10c carmine ..... 150.00



1898. Surcharge of 1897, further ovpt 1898 in circle. Imperf.

4. 10c carmine ..... 100.00



1898. Issue of 1896, with 1898 in circle (but no 1897 ovpt). Imperf.

5. 10c carmine ..... 100.00



1898. Large Arms design, dated 1898. Imperf.

6. 10c grey-green ..... 20.00



1899. Issue of 1898, overprinted 1899 in circle in black, or in red (R). Imperf.

7. 10c grey-green ..... 50.00

8. 10c grey-green (R) ..... 75.00



1900. Issue of 1898, overprinted 1900 in circle in black. Imperf.

9. 10c grey-green ..... 15.00



1900. Large Arms design, dated 1900. (As illustration, but without the red postal overprint). Imperf.

10. 10c blue ..... 150.00



1902. Small design, royal Arms. Perf 13.

11. 10c red ..... 5.00  
12. 40c grey ..... 10.00  
13. 50c brown ..... 10.00  
14. 1P yellow-brown ..... 20.00



c1940. Arms.

44. 5c dark blue on salmon ..... 10.00



c1930. Republican Arms.

16. 5c brown ..... 15.00  
17. 10c red ..... 15.00  
18. 1P yellow ..... 25.00



c1936. Nationalist Arms (as illustrated but without the postal overprint). Perf 11.

20. 5c red ..... 10.00  
21. 15c olive ..... 20.00



1938. Movil stamps of Spain with handstruck "Guinea/Espanola" in black or violet-black.

30. 5c black ..... 5.00  
31. 10c brown ..... 5.00  
32. 15c olive-black ..... 5.00  
33. 20c purple ..... 5.00  
34. 25c plum to orange-brown ..... 5.00  
35. 30c rose ..... 5.00  
36. 35c black ..... 7.50  
37. 40c yellow-brown ..... 7.50  
38. 50c brown ..... 5.00  
(39. 60c orange)  
40. 75c turquoise ..... 7.50  
(41. 90c green)  
42. 1P violet ..... 10.00  
43. 1P50 deep purple ..... 15.00



c1940. Arms.

44. 5c dark blue on salmon ..... 10.00



c1950. Larger Arms.

45. 35c green ..... 10.00  
46. 60c brown ..... 10.00  
47. 75c brown ..... 20.00  
48. 1P25 purple ..... 25.00  
49. 1P50 violet ..... 25.00

## SPANISH GUINEA - REVENUE - IMPRESSED DUTY

A graduated tax applied to judicial and legal documents, according to the type of document or transaction. All stamps (except issue of c1920) bear a class reference figure (the class is indicated in brackets).



1896. Cherubs. (As illustration, but without the postal overprint). Imperf.

1. 25c grey-green (10) ..... 75.00  
(In theory, a set of 12 for the different classes may have existed, but only the above known. For stamps of similar design, but different values or colours, see Cuba)



1898. Circular ANO / 1898 overprint.

2. 25c grey-green (10) ..... 100.00  
2a. ovpt in blue (10) ..... 100.00

1.899

1899. Further ovpt "1.899".

3. 25c grey-green (10) ..... 100.00



1900. Allegory

(4. 25c yellow-brown (10))

Listed by Barata. Other values in the set of 12 classes may exist. Possibly these may belong to another colony, or Spain itself.





1900. Postage stamp of Fernando Poo, overprinted for fiscal use.

- 5. 10c red-brown ..... 75.00
- 6. 15c olive ..... 100.00

Listed by Barata. Status uncertain, may have been intended for postal use?



7



8

1901. Provisional typeset issue, dated 1901. A) five lines of text in colour stated, mainly in lower case "HABILITADO / para poliza / clase 11 / 0,50 pesetas / 1 901" etc, on paper apparently without dividing lines. Serial number in black or in red. Oval control cachet. Imperf.

- 7. 50c blue (11) ..... 50.00
- 8. 1P25 black (10) ..... 75.00



9



10

1901. Similar, but four lines of text all upper case "HABILITADO / PARA POLIZA CLASE 11 / 0,50 PESETAS / -- - 1901 ---", on paper marked out with black dividing lines to mark separations between the stamps. Serial number in black or in red. Oval control cachet. Imperf.

- 9. 50c blue B (11) ..... 50.00
- 10. 1P25 red (10) ..... 75.00



1902. Provisional of 1901, ovpt "1902" in circle.

- 10. 50c blue ..... 50.00



1905. Provisional typeset issue, four lines of text, dated 1905. Imperf.

- 11. 50c blue (11) ..... 50.00
- 12. 1P25 blue (10) ..... 75.00

From 1905 to c1920, revenue stamps of Spanish West Africa (q.v.) replaced stamps of Fernando Poo. From c1920, special issues were again introduced for this area, but now inscribed TERRITORIOS ESPANOLAS DEL GOLFO DE GUINEA.



c1920. Allegory of Mars (illustration slightly reduced). No indication of Class. Perf c14.

- 64. 10c yellow ..... 20.00
- 65. 50c red ..... 20.00
- 66. 50c green? ..... 20.00
- 67. 1P brown ..... 25.00
- 68. 2P deep grey ..... 25.00
- 69. 3P dull orange ..... 25.00
- 70. 4P slate blue ..... 25.00
- 71. 5P purple-brown ..... 25.00
- 72. 25P blue-grey ..... 35.00
- 73. 50P dull magenta ..... 75.00
- 74. 75P deep purple ..... 100.00
- 75. 100P sepia ..... 150.00



1931. Above issue, overprinted REPUBLICA / ESPAÑOLA.

- 80. 10c yellow ..... 30.00
- Other values may exist with this overprint.



1932. Allegory of Law with Republican Arms. Perf.

- 98. 2P40 red (7) ..... 25.00
- Other values may exist for the other Classes.



c1940. Arms.

- |       |                      |       |
|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 105.  | 25c black (10)       | 20.00 |
| (106. | ? (9))               |       |
| 107.  | 1P50 dark violet (8) | 25.00 |
| 108.  | 3P deep carmine (7)  | 35.00 |

Other values may exist for the other Classes.

## SPANISH GUINEA - CONTRATOS

Contracts.



1937. Arms (medium size) (as illustration, but without the postal overprint). Perf.

- |    |                  |       |
|----|------------------|-------|
| 1. | 17P red          | 25.00 |
| 2. | 40P yellow-green | 25.00 |



c1940. Arms (larger size, value with white figures on coloured background). Perf.

- |    |           |       |
|----|-----------|-------|
| 3. | 40P green | 25.00 |
|----|-----------|-------|

## SPANISH GUINEA - EQUATORIAL REGION



c1955. Movil revenue of Spain (no imprint, values from 2P in the larger format), ovpt "Region / Ecuatorial" in bluish black. No gum.

- |    |           |       |
|----|-----------|-------|
| 1. | 40c ochre | 10.00 |
| 2. | 5P green  | 20.00 |

Other values in the series from 5c to 20P probably exist.

From c1960, issues with imprint F.N.M.T. may exist.

**SPANISH  
GUINEA -  
FERNANDO  
POO -  
MUNICIPALS**

**SANTA ISABEL**



c1890. Arms, with black dividing lines  
between stamps. Imperf.

1. 25P black on pale rose ..... 50.00

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