

Dead Countries

Elobey, Annobon, and Carisco



This short-lived country was composed of four small islands – Annobon, Carisco, Elobey Grande and Elobey Chico. They were located off the west coast of Africa in Carisco Bay. Initially discovered by Portugal in 1472, little was done with them until Spain traded some territory in what is now Brazil for the islands. It was named a protectorate of Spain and administered by a Governor-General based in Santa Isabel. They remained relatively undeveloped, with a population in 1910 of 2,950 people. In 1926 they became part of Spanish Guinea, which later became independent Equatorial Guinea.

Stamps were issued for Elobey, Annobon, and Carisco between 1903 and 1910. All depicted a profile of Alphonso XIII of Spain. The first set of 18 stamps had values of ¼ centimo to 10 pesetas, all featuring a rather young portrait.



In 1905 the first set was reissued with different colors and a tiny 1905 date.



In 1906 six of the 1905 stamps were issued with a large overprint.



In 1907 a new set of 16 values featuring a portrait of a more mature Alphonso was issued.



In 1908, 1909 and 1910a total of six of the 1907 issue were issued with overprints.

