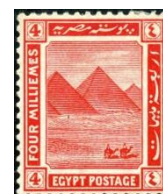




Universiteit
Leiden



African Studies Centre Leiden

African Postal Heritage

APH Paper Nr 8, part 4

Ton Dietz

MAURITANIA: after 1960

Version January 2017

Introduction

Postage stamps and related objects are miniature communication tools, and they tell a story about cultural and political identities and about artistic forms of identity expressions. They are part of the world's material heritage, and part of history. Ever more of this postal heritage becomes available online, published by stamp collectors' organizations, auction houses, commercial stamp shops, online catalogues, and individual collectors. Virtually collecting postage stamps and postal history has recently become a possibility. These working papers about Africa are examples of what can be done. But they are work-in-progress! Everyone who would like to contribute, by sending corrections, additions, and new area studies can do so by sending an email message to the APH editor: Ton Dietz (dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl). You are welcome!

Disclaimer: illustrations and some texts are copied from internet sources that are publicly available. All sources have been mentioned. If there are claims about the copy rights of these sources, please send an email to asc@asc.leidenuniv.nl, and, if requested, those illustrations will be removed from the next version of the working paper concerned.

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Illustrations cover page:

ASC Leiden postage stamp Nederland (2011): ©African Studies Centre Leiden

Cape of Good Hope postage stamp 1853:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7c/Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg/400px-Cape_Triangular_Postage_Stamp.jpg

Egypt postage stamp 1914:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/Post_Stamp_Egypt.jpg

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and expressing identity

Part 4: Postal services in Independent Mauritania (1960 onwards), and expressing identity



http://rlv.zcache.be/manteau_de_la_mauritanie_de_detail_de_bras_carte_postale-r245b2cd1a33542e4bb1824b8bc5b002c_vgbaq_8byvr_324.jpg

Mainly showing a selection of postage stamps expressing political and/or cultural identity.

1958 and 1960, around Independence, postmarks Nouakchott



Denise

www.delcampe.net

http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/342/884/119_001.jpg

1960



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0161.jpg>

<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0177.jpg>

January 1960, Independence



Alainbetton

www.delcampe.net

http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/262/935/115_001.jpg?v=1

November 1960, Independence



Alainbetton

www.delcampe.net

http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/262/934/609_001.jpg?v=1

November 1960, Independence



Alainbetton

www.delcampe.net

http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/262/935/879_001.jpg?v=1

Idem



Alainbetton

www.delcampe.net

http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/262/934/099_001.jpg

Idem



Alainbetton

www.delcampe.net

http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/262/935/557_001.jpg

1960, CCTA, African Technical Cooperation



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0162.jpg>

1961, service stamps with Oulata symbol



<http://media.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Mauritania/Postage-due-stamps/D-s.jpg>



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvpt19.jpg>

1961, Postage Due stamps



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvps1.jpg>

1961, Mauritanian Birds



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0178.jpg>

1961, UNO Membership, with picture of Nouakchott, and New York



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0191.jpg>

1962, African Union



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0194.jpg>

1962, first anniversary of membership of the United Nations



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0197.jpg>



http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_4mYOLTG9G2Q/SLBGRem_SwI/AAAAAABhM/MI1iD1hBMkY/s400/Mauritanie+R%C3%A9p.JP.G

1962, 2d anniversary of independence, with map of Mauritania, and agriculture



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0198.jpg>

1962, Congress of African Unity



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0199.jpg>

1962 European cooperation



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/400x400/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/m/v/mvpvia.jpg

1963, African Postal Union



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0216.jpg>

1963, Air Afrique



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0220.jpg>

1963, Universal Declaration of Human Rights



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0221.jpg>

1963, Postage Due, Mauritanian Birds



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvpt26.jpg>

1964, Europafrique



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0222.jpg>

1964, French-African cooperation



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0240.jpg>

1964, John F. Kennedy



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0241.jpg>

1964, Mauritanian musical instruments



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0246.jpg>

1965 Tourism and Archaeology in Mauritania



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0252.jpg>

1965, Abraham Lincoln



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0250.jpg>

1965, Mauritanian handicrafts



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0257.jpg>

1965, Winston Churchill



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0265.jpg>

1966, African art



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0273.jpg>

1966, African Unity, OAU



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0276.jpg>

1967 Tree,s in Mauritania



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0308.jpg>

1967, Women at work



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0315.jpg>

1967, Monetary Union



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0325.jpg>

1968, Adenauer



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0333.jpg>

1968, Gandhi and Martin Luther King



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0350.jpg>

1969, African Tourism



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0370.jpg>

1969, African Development Bank



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0380.jpg>

1969, Art handicrafts



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0381.jpg>

1970, Traditional costumes of Mauritania



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/480x407/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa6f/m/v/mvp0405.jpg

1970, ten years Independence



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0410.jpg>

1970, Lenin



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0386.jpg>

1971, anti-racism



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0415.jpg>

1971, death of Egyptian President Nasser



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0417.jpg>

1971, Charles de Gaulle



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0418.jpg>

1972, West African Monetary Union



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0448.jpg>

1973, Drought solidarity, using new Mauritanian currency after breaking away from UMOA.



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0462.jpg>

1973, New local coins: Ouguiya



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0495.jpg>

1975 International Women Year



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0509.jpg>

1975, Drought solidarity



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0513.jpg>

1975, Mining Industry



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0515.jpg>

1975, 15 years Independence (on 2d stamp the map still shows Mauritania before (briefly) the Southern part of the Western Sahara was added, a situation that lasted until 1977).



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0520.jpg>

1976, Reunification; inclusion of southern part of the Western Sahara



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0535.jpg>

1976, friendship with Pakistan



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0551.jpg>

1977, Arab Postal Union



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/400x400/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/m/v/mvp0569.jpg

1977, Mauritanian Pottery



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0570.jpg>

1977 Mecca Pilgrimage



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0575.jpg>

1978, Anti-Apartheid



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/400x400/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/m/v/mvp0608.jpg

1978, Decolonization



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/400x400/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/m/v/mvp0610.jpg

1979, Leather art



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0625.jpg>

1980, 20 years of Independence, map with old boundaries restored



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0710.jpg>

1981, Kemal Ataturk



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0730.jpg>

1981, Birds of Mauritania, National Park Banc d'Anguin



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0738.jpg>

1982, traditional houses



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0761.jpg>

1982, Sandrose



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0776.jpg>

1984, Mecca Pilgrimage



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0832.jpg>

1984, Sahel aid



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0835.jpg>

1985, against desertification



African Postal Heritage; African Studies Centre Leiden; APH Paper; Ton Dietz
MAURITANIA (part 4); Version January 2017

<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0842.jpg>

<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0844.jpg>

1986, textile



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0882.jpg>

1988, elections



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0938.jpg>

1988, agriculture



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0941.jpg>

1989, Carpet



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0959.jpg>

1990, Nelson Mandela



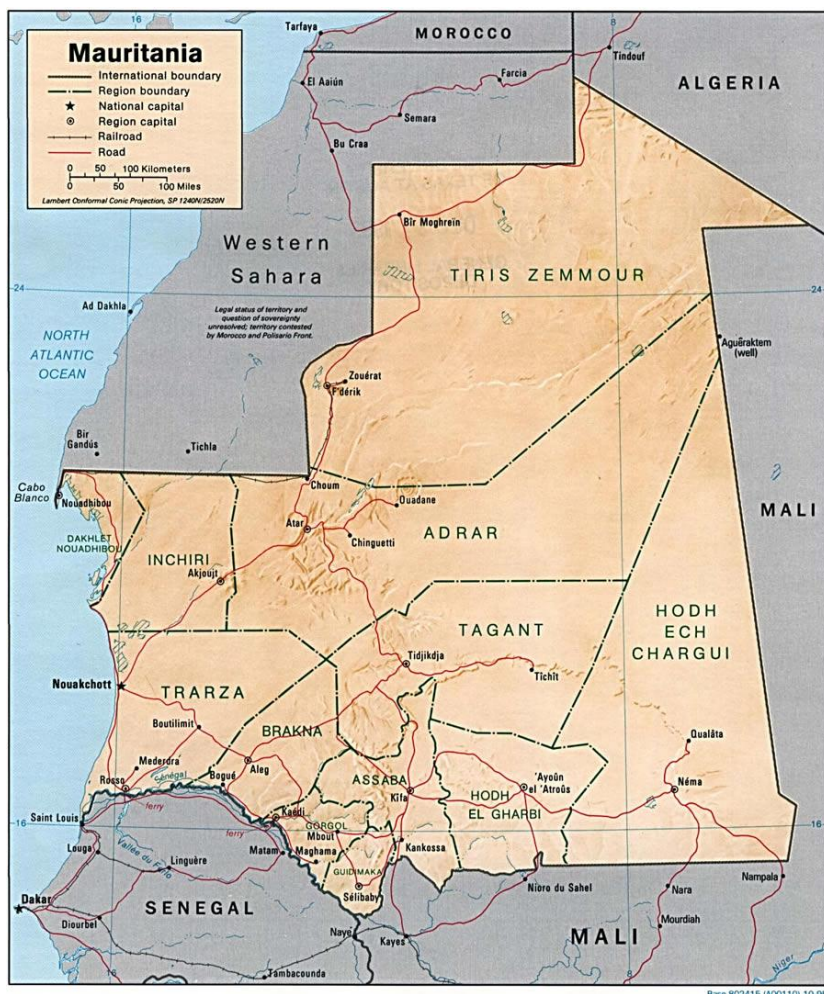
<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0978.jpg>

2010, Local jewelry



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp31001.jpg>

Post-independence post offices in Mauritania



<http://www.carte-du-monde.net/cartes/mauritanie.jpg>

According to a recent website message (<http://www.mauripost.mr/an/presentation.htm>), the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has 26 post offices and in addition 4 post points.

These are given in table 1.

Table 1, recent post offices in Mauritania

District	Post office	Post points
NOUAKCHOTT	NOUAKCHOTT MAIN POST OFFICE KSAR POST OFFICE SEBKHA POST OFFICE	
HODH ECHARGHI	NEMA POST OFFICE TIMBEDRA POST OFFICE	
HODH GHARBI	AIOUN POST OFFICE TINTANE POST OFFICE	
ASSABA	KIFFA POST OFFICE GUERROU POST OFFICE	
TAGANT	TIDJIKJA POST OFFICE	
BRAKNA	ALEG POST OFFICE BOGHÉ POST OFFICE BABABE POST OFFICE	

GORGOL	KAEDI POST OFFICE MAGHAMA POST OFFICE	
GUIDIMAGHA	SELIBABY POST OFFICE OULD YENJA POST OFFICE DIAGUILY POST OFFICE GHABOU POST OFFICE	
TRARZA	ROSSO POST OFFICE BOUTILIMIT POST OFFICE	
INCHIRI	AKJOUJT POST OFFICE	
ADRAR	ATAR POST OFFICE CHINGUITTY POST OFFICE	OUADANE POST POINT AOUJEFT POST POINT TERJIT POST POINT BEN AMERA POST POINT
TIRIS ZEMMOUR	ZOUERATE POST OFFICE	
DAKHLET NOUADHIBOU	NOUADHIBOU POST OFFICE (Formerly PORT ETIENNE)	

Geographical images and Postmarks after Independence

Nouakchott

1965 postage stamps 'development', with pictures of Nouakchott (the harbour and the hospital), and of the Choum tunnel (see later)



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/400x400/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/m/v/mvp0261.jpg

1968 Tourism series, first one: the Mosque in Nouakhchott



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0338.jpg>

1969, Development series, 1 st stamp desalination factory in Nouakhchott



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0383.jpg>

1975, Nouakhchott Fair



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0517.jpg>

1978, Nouakhchott



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0621.jpg>

1984, Nouakhchott, sports complex



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0831.jpg>

Nouakhchott, postmark 1963, space conquest

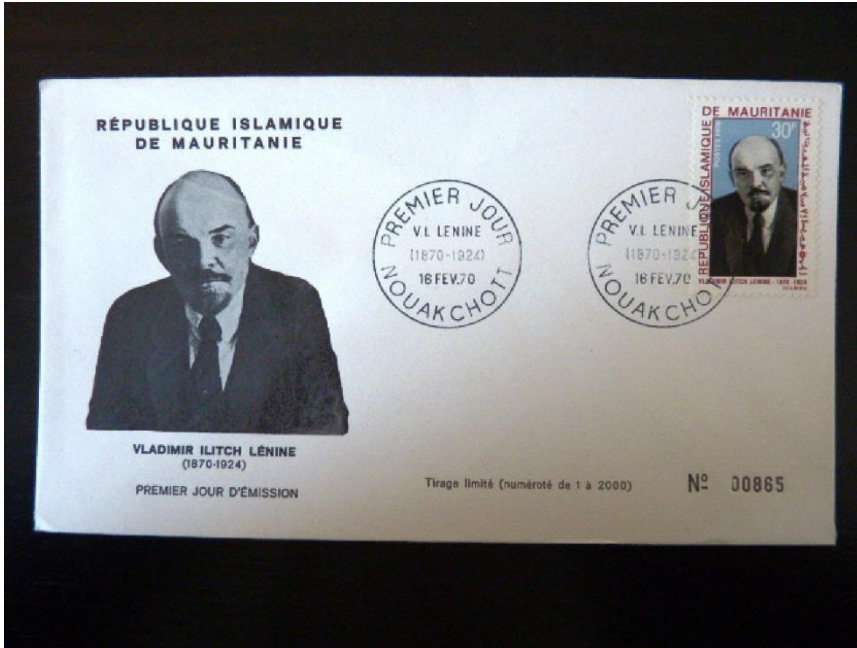


Zenoyl

www.delcampe.net

http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/300/553/035_001.jpg

postmark 1970, Lenin



[http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTIwMFgxNjAw/z/Hz8AAOxylv5TkIm1/\\$_57.JPG](http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/MTIwMFgxNjAw/z/Hz8AAOxylv5TkIm1/$_57.JPG)

Ksar postmark: not yet found

Sebkha postmark: not yet found

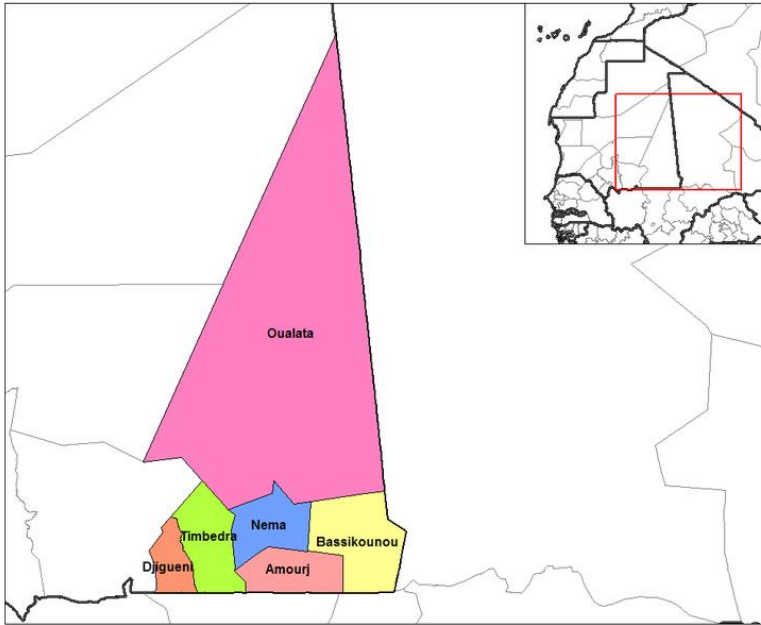
Nema postmark, 1968, and stamp with the Nouakchott-Nema route 1978



http://images.delcampe.com/img_large/auction/000/302/380/349_001.jpg

http://www.timbres-afrique-francophone.com/img/timbre/1978/1978_MAU_0391A.jpg

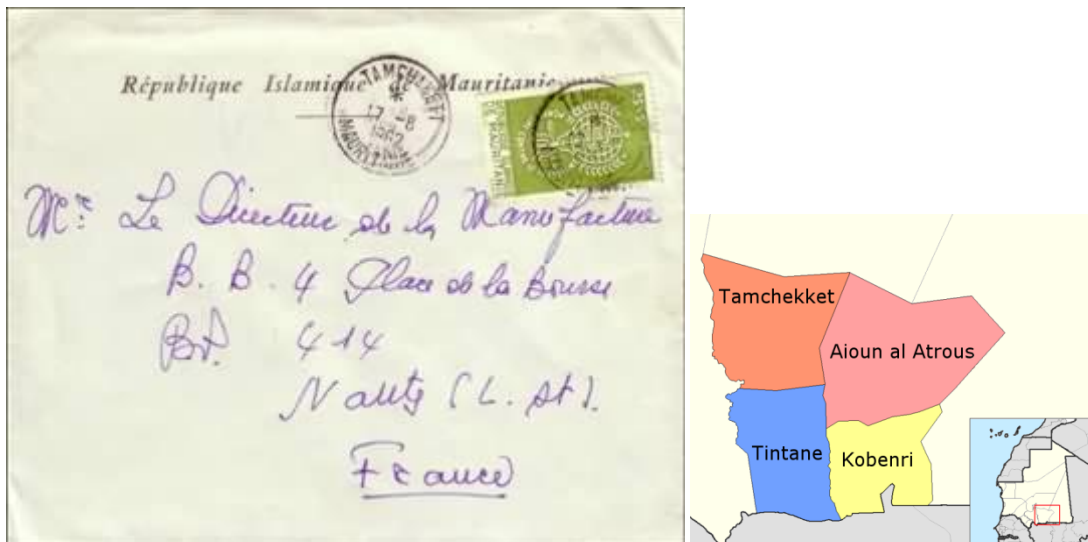
Timbedra postmark: not yet found



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/e/e6/Hodh_Ech_Chargui_departments.png/800px-Hodh_Ech_Chargui_departments.png

Aioun, postmark not yet found

Tamchekket/Tamchakett (near Aioun), postmark 1962

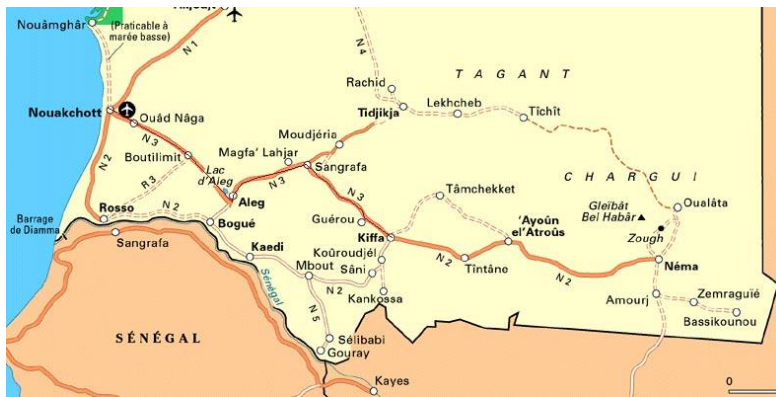


<http://www.tropicollections.com/boutique/themes/img-th/paludisme/mau033.jpg>

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/52/Hodh_El_Gharbi_Departments.png

Tintane postmark: not yet found

Kiffa postmark: not yet found



<http://hovawart-en-afrique.pagesperso-orange.fr/images/recit-mauritanie-3/carte-nouakchott-kiffa.jpg>

Kankossa postmark, South of Kiffa in Assaba District, 1963



http://www.histoire-et-philatelie.fr/images/005_decolonisation/11_g_mauritanie/office_pt.jpg

Guerou/Guerrou: postmark not yet found

Tidjikja: postmark not yet found

Aleg: postmark not yet found

Kaedi, 1969 Development series, 3d stamp meat freezing factory in Kaedi



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0383.jpg>

Kaedi: postmark not yet found

Maghama: postmark not yet found

Selibaby : postmark not yet found

Ould Yenja: postmark not yet found

Diaguily: postmark not yet found

Ghabou: postmark not yet found

Rosso: postmark: not yet found



http://ddc.arte.tv/uploads/program_slideshow/image/2140906.jpg

Boutilimit postmark: not yet found

1968 Tourism Series, 3d stamp Boutilimit tower



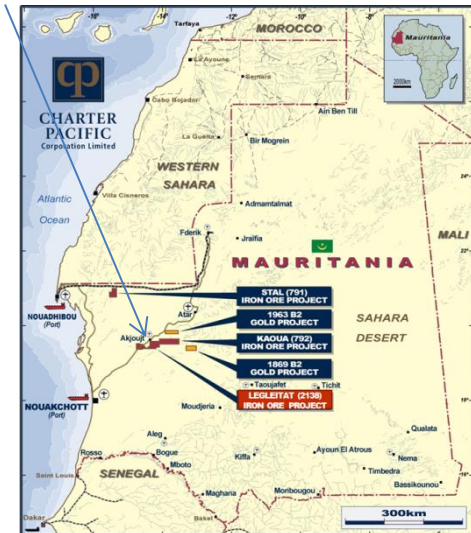
<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0338.jpg>

Boutilimit-Iznalloz-Tyresö-Savigny le Temple Jumelage, 1986, with French postage stamp



http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/269/954/973_001.jpg

Akjoujt postmark: not yet found

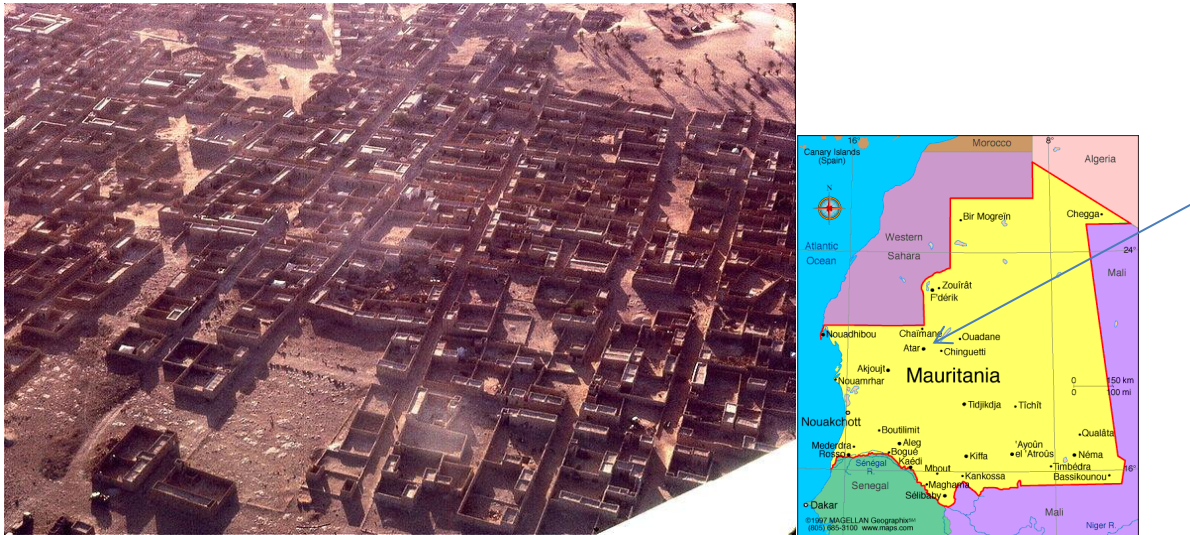


<http://www.charpac.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Map2014.png>

Atar postmark (2007)



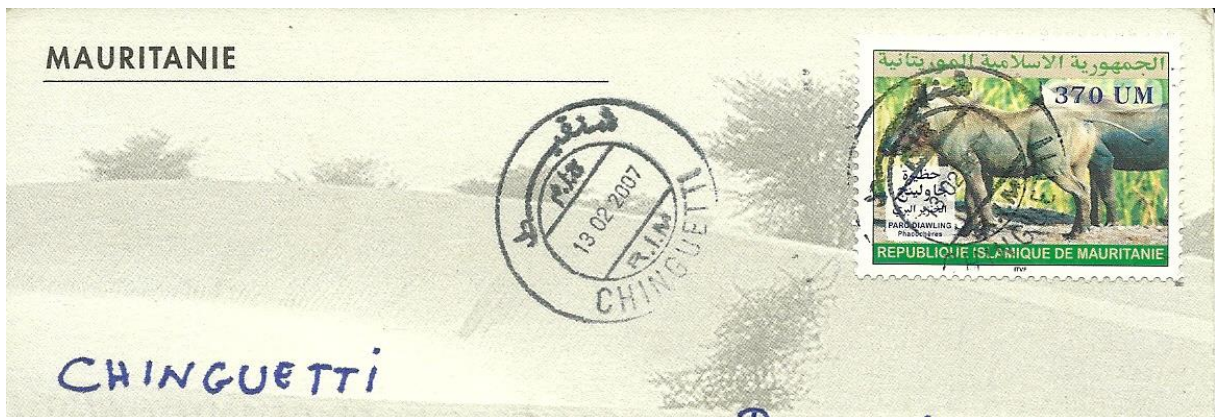
<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-3TDtJ9S8XyU/UbDY4KEMPyI/AAAAAAAAIdg/4hnskWirX0A/s1600/scan0006.jpg>



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/21/Aerial_view_of_Atar%2C_Mauritania%2C_1967.jpg/800px-Aerial_view_of_Atar%2C_Mauritania%2C_1967.jpg

<http://i.infopls.com/images/mmaurtan.gif>

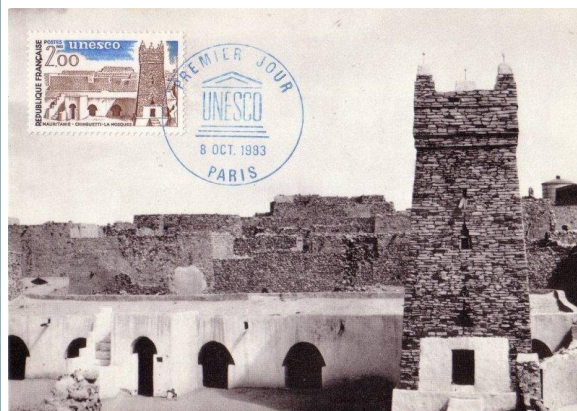
Chinguetti postmark (2007)





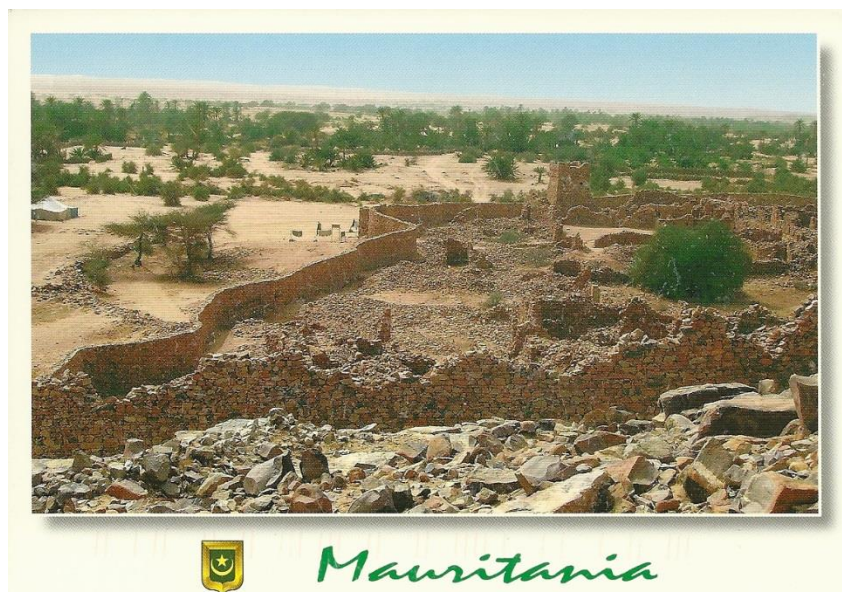
<http://www.africanworldheritagesites.org/assets/images/ksour-map.jpg>

1983, French postage stamp with the mosque of Chinguetti (Chinguitti) in Mauritania



<http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/VpAAAOxymSPFouS/s-l300.jpg>

<https://www.wikitimbres.fr/public/stamps/visuels/800/SERVICE-1983-1a22a22a1396090030.jpg>



<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-tDTOUrGABK0/UbdY2WrQc4I/AAAAAAAAIdM/x8TLFvj9hWs/s1600/scan0003.jpg>

Choum in the Adrar region

1965, 'development', the railway tunnel of Choum, very near the Western Sahara.



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/400x400/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/m/v/mvp0261.jpg

This is what Wikipedia has to say: "The town grew from its position on trans-Saharan trading routes. It declined with the trade, and in 1977 was attacked by French troops as a suspected base of the Polisario Front, the national liberation movement fighting for independence for the Western Sahara. Fortifications from the period survive around the town... Choum is now a stop on the Mauritania Railway from Nouadhibou on the Atlantic coast to Zouérat, and a transport interchange for access to the Adrar Plateau and the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott. It is the railway which has made Choum famous - or infamous - in the European colonial legacy to Africa...The town stands on a spur of land which carries the major turning-point in the border between Mauritania and the Western Sahara. In the early 1960s the French colonial authorities in Mauritania wished to build the line from Nouadhibou to Zouérat to exploit the iron ore reserves at Zouérat. The Spanish authorities

then responsible for the Western Sahara negotiated to allow the railway to be built through Spanish territory over relatively level desert but imposed conditions unacceptable to the French. The French engineers therefore built the line parallel with the border and tunneled through the Choum hillspur - two kilometres through solid granite just to stay within French territory. The tunnel has been called a "monument to European stupidity in Africa". [2] The absurdity was highlighted when the southern part of the territory of Western Sahara was briefly administered by Mauritania after the Spanish withdrew in 1975-6. The tunnel is no longer in use and a 5 km section of the railway cuts right through the POLISARIO controlled part of the Western Sahara (21.354867°N 13.012644°W)".

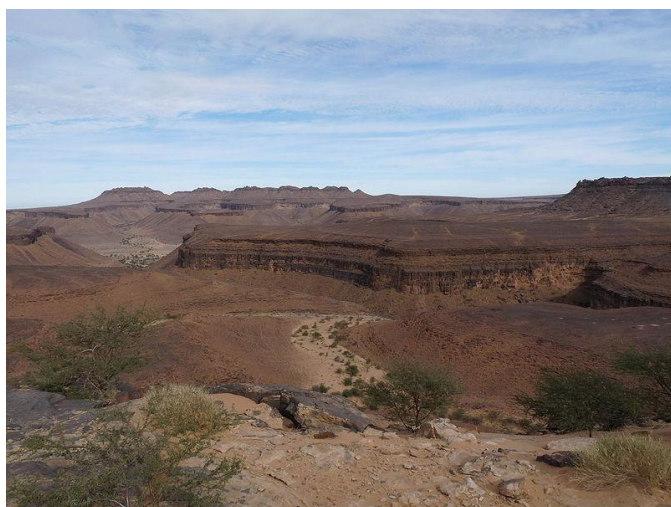
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Choum> (accessed February 2016).

Amogjar Pass in the Adrar region

1968, Tourism series, 2d stamp



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0338.jpg>



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/fa/Adrar-Passe_d%27Amogjar_%281%29.JPG/800px-Adrar-Passe_d%27Amogjar_%281%29.JPG

Ouadane in the Adrar region

1983: ancient cities in Mauritania, including Ouadane



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0783.jpg>

Zouerate , 1963 Postage stamps of the iron mine and the harbour of Port Etienne (later Nouadhibou), from where the iron is exported.



http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/small_image/400x400/040ec09b1e35df139433887a97daa66f/m/v/mvp0202.jpg

1971, Miferma Railway



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0423p.jpg>

Zouerate Postmark NW Mauritania (in Tiris Zemmour) 1963,



http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/277/275/711_001.jpg

http://lycees.ac-rouen.fr/genevoix/guppy/img/mauritanie_carte2.jpg

Zouerate Postmark, 1967,



Postillon31

www.delcampe.net

http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/342/457/417_001.jpg



http://caglobalint.com/recruitment/wordpress_caglobal/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/mine-de-zouerate.jpg

Zemmour (in Tiris Zemmour District), 1975 Rock paintings stamps



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0506.jpg>

Nouadhibou/Port Etienne

1969 Development series, 2d stamp Nouadhibou fish harbour



<http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/cache/2/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb8d27136e95/m/v/mvp0383.jpg>

1961, **Port Etienne** Postmark, mixed postage stamps



http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/347/079/800_001.jpg?v=1

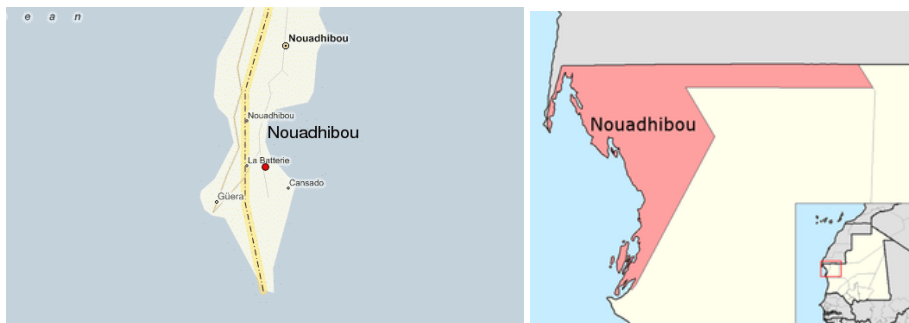
Nouadhibou, postmark 1975



2014, Postmark **Nouadhibou**



<https://worldwidecovers.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/mauritania-140112.jpg>



<http://w0.fast-meteo.com/locationmaps/Nouadhibou.12.gif>

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/2c/Dakhlet_Nouadhibou_Department.png/280px-Dakhlet_Nouadhibou_Department.png