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!

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MAURITANIA (part 1); Version February 2017

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
# Table of contents

**Part 1**

**Introduction**  
French colonial postal services 1906-1922  

**Part 2**

French colonial postal services 1922-1940  

**Part 3**

French colonial postal services 1940-1960  

**Part 4**

Postal services in independent Mauritania (1960 onwards)  

and expressing identity
MAURITANIA

Introduction

“Mauritania” (Arabic: موريتانيا; Berber: Muritanya or Agawej; Wolof: Gànnaar; Soninke: Murutane; Pulaar: Moritani), officially the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, is a country in the Maghreb region of western North Africa. It is the eleventh largest country in Africa and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, Morocco and the remnants of Western Sahara in the north, Algeria in the northeast, Mali in the east and southeast, and Senegal in the southwest”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritania (Febr. 2016)

“Mauritania’s first stamps were issued in 1906. They were in the common design used in all the French West African territories, featuring General Louis Faidherbe on the low values (1-10 centimes), oil palms on the middle values (20-75 centimes), and Dr. Noel Eugene Ballay, a colonial administrator, on the high values (1-5 francs). They showed both the territory name and the collective designation “Afrique Occidentale Francaise.” A long series of definitive stamps followed in 1913 in a common design showing a family crossing the desert, which was in use for 25 years, until a new issue in 1938 which was in use until individual issues for the West African territories were discontinued after the Free French takeover in 1942. Thereafter, Mauritania used the stamps of French West Africa until independence. The first stamps of independent Mauritania were issued on January 20, 1960.

http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Mauritania1.png
Since independence, Mauritania has issued a moderate number of colourful stamps, usually in denominations intended for normal postal purposes, not exploitation of collectors. Topics range widely, from internationally renowned personages, international organizations, wildlife and marine animals, sports, aviation, etc. The French African CFA franc was in use until 1973, when a new currency, the ougouya (UM) was introduced at a rate of 1 UM = 5 fr. CFA, resulting in stamp issues in the new currency.

The first stamps of independent Mauritania were issued in 1960. Before that, Mauritania used the stamps of Senegal.”


http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/282/781/187_001.jpg
French colonial postage services 1906-1922

1906 regular stamps

1c: http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Mauritania/Postage-stamps/A-i.jpg
2c: http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Mauritania/Postage-stamps/A1-i.jpg
4c: http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Mauritania/Postage-stamps/A2-i.jpg
5c: http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Mauritania/Postage-stamps/A3-i.jpg
10c: http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Mauritania/Postage-stamps/A4-i.jpg

http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NDQ3WDgwMA==/z/R-EAAOSwl-BWJoXP/$_57.JPG

1906, Postmark Kaëdi, with Taxe

1906, Postmark Boghe, with Taxe

https://www.sandafayre.com/stockimages/26285157.jpg
1906, Idem

http://images.delcampe.com/img_large/auction/000/287/732/482_001.jpg

1908, Postmark Tidjikdja, on postcard from Senegal

http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/347/065/288_001.jpg

1909 Postmark Boutilimit, taxed with French tax stamp
1910, Postmark **Tidjikdja**, with a postage stamp of Mauritania, but on postcard showing women in Niger

1910, Postmark **Guimi**, with postage Stamp of Mauritania, but on postcard showing the market of Bamako.
http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/333/019/702_001.jpg?v=1

1910, sent from Moudjeria, and using postage stamp of Mauritania, but on postcard showing St Louis in Senegal

1906 sent from Kaedi, to St Louis in Senegal (arrival March 1908) and from there to Morocco, where it arrived on 5 August 1908.
African Postal Heritage; African Studies Centre Leiden; APH Paper 8; Ton Dietz
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http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/350/771/819_001.jpg
1906, Tax stamps

http://www.postbeeld.com/media/catalog/product/m/v/mvpt1.jpg
http://cartespostales.eu/117871-large_default/MAURITANIE__Un_Grand_Chef_Maure_et_sa_suite_Soudan__tr_s_bon_tat.jpg

1913, regular stamps, desert landscape
MAURITANIA (part 1); Version February 2017

1c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-18-s1-0.10-UM.jpg
2c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-19-s1-0.30-SD.jpg
4c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-20-s1-0.40-UM.jpg
5c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-21-s1-2.50-UM.jpg
10c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-22-s1-3.25-UM.jpg
15c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-23-s1-0.75-UM.jpg
20c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-24-s1-2.75-UM.jpg
25c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-25-s1-5.50-UM.jpg
30c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-26-s1-4.25-UM.jpg
35c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-27-s1-1.70-UM.jpg
40c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-28-s1-2.75-UM.jpg
45c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-29-s1-1.60-UM.jpg
50c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-30-s1-2.00-UM.jpg
75c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-31-s1-2.30-UM.jpg
1F: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-32-s1-1.80-UM.jpg
2F: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1913-33-s1-2.30-UM.jpg
1914, postmark Tidjikja

1918, Postmark Port Etienne (currently Nouadhibou (Arabic: توانثيو)).
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http://i.ebayimg.com/00/s/NjkzWDEwOTM=/ST2eC16hHJGwE9n)yVUMh8Q2DOjezPw~~60_57.JPG

1914, Tax stamps

5c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D35-s1-0.35-UM.jpg
10c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D36-s1-0.10-UM.jpg
15c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D37-s1-0.10-UM.jpg
20c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D38-s1-0.35-UM.jpg
30c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D39-s1-0.45-UM.jpg
50c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D40-s1-0.75-UM.jpg
60c: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D41-s1-0.50-UM.jpg
1 F: http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D42-s1-0.80-UM.jpg

1915 Red Cross 10c + 5c, with postmark **Kaedi**

![1915 Red Cross 10c + 5c, with postmark Kaedi](http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1914-D42-s1-0.80-UM.jpg)

1918, Red Cross 15c + 5C, one with postmark **Tidjikda**

http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/338/479/287_001.jpg

![1918, Red Cross 15c + 5C, one with postmark Tidjikda](http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/358/316/979_001.jpg)

http://kayatana.com/images/MAR1915-36-s1-1.50-UM.jpg

http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/358/316/979_001.jpg

1918, Red Cross 15c + 5C, variety.
http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/254/988/696_001.jpg?v=1