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Sahara : Rio de Oro and La Aguera

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African Studies Centre Leiden

African Postal Heritage

APH Paper Nr 6: part 3

Ton Dietz

Sahara: RIO DE ORO AND LA AGUERA

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!

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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

AFRICAN POSTAL HERITAGE

Ton Dietz, African Studies Centre Leiden

Leiden, February 2017

SAHARA

Ifni, Cabo Juby, Rio de Oro, La Agüera, Spanish Sahara, Spanish West Africa, and post-1975 Sahara

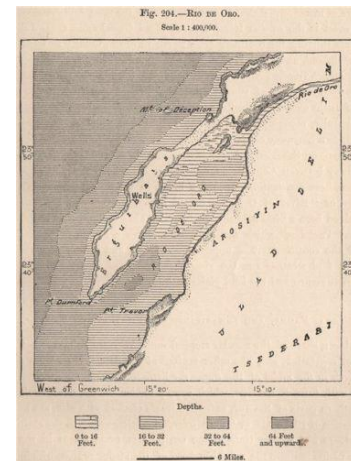
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Rio de Oro

“Rio de Oro, geographically along the Atlantic ocean in the southern portion of Spanish (Western) Sahara in northwest Africa, became a Spanish protectorate in 1884 (Berlin Conference). The capital was Villa Cisneros, and the population was reported to be 24,000. The reality is there is no gold there (despite the name), and the landscape is bleak indeed, with essentially no precipitation, although fog is found along the coast. Rio de Oro became part of Spanish (Western) Sahara, along with Saguia el-Hamra, in 1924. Spain actually held on to the territory until 1975, when it was then split between Morocco and Mauritania influence. Eventually, Morocco assumed administrative control of most of the territory. The dispute continues. The United Nations considers the lands to be a "non-self-governing territory", and has urged a referendum on independence for the Sahrawi population.”

<http://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.nl/2015/04/ClassicalStampsOfRiodeOro.html>



http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-9vCm6h0kZkk/VGESzo9ZvYI/AAAAAAWWMY/I1YbjPWGA-I/s1600/mapa_rio_de_oro.jpg

'Rio de Oro'. Dakhla, Western Sahara, 1885 antique map: <http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/48AAASwBahVQPCw/s-l500.jpg>

According to the *Michel Katalog for Nord- und Ostafrika* (2005, p. 997) Rio de Oro became a Spanish colony in 1901, under the (Spanish) Governor of the Canary Islands. It started to issue its own postage stamps in 2005 with a series of 16 stamps, showing the Spanish King Alphonso XIII. It was followed by 16 stamps issued in 1907, and four overprinted 1905 stamps. In 1908 four other overprints were issued (and two that have never been officially issued).



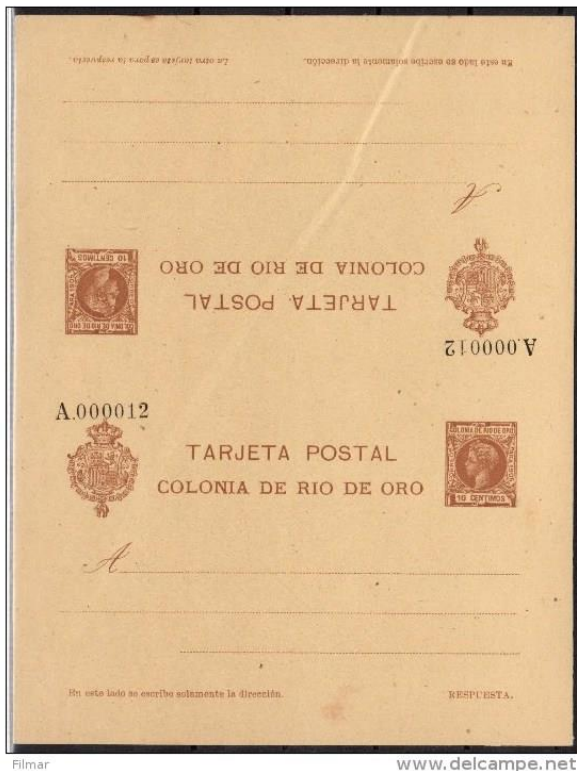
http://images-00.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/262/812/653_001.jpg

1905



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Sahara-3 RIO DE ORO and LA AGUERA

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3c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A2-i.jpg>
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50c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A8-i.jpg>
75c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A9-i.jpg>
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2 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A11-i.jpg>
3 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A12-i.jpg>
4 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A13-i.jpg>
5 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A14-i.jpg>
10 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/A15-i.jpg>



http://images-02.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/318/318/031_001.jpg

http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/314/571/288_001.jpg

1907



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4c: <http://3.bp.blogspot.com/--bdCnHJrXek/VGD99A3M1HI/AAAAAAAAWKU/5J33xQdJKmw/s1600/RiodeOro21.jpg>

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50c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/B8-i.jpg>

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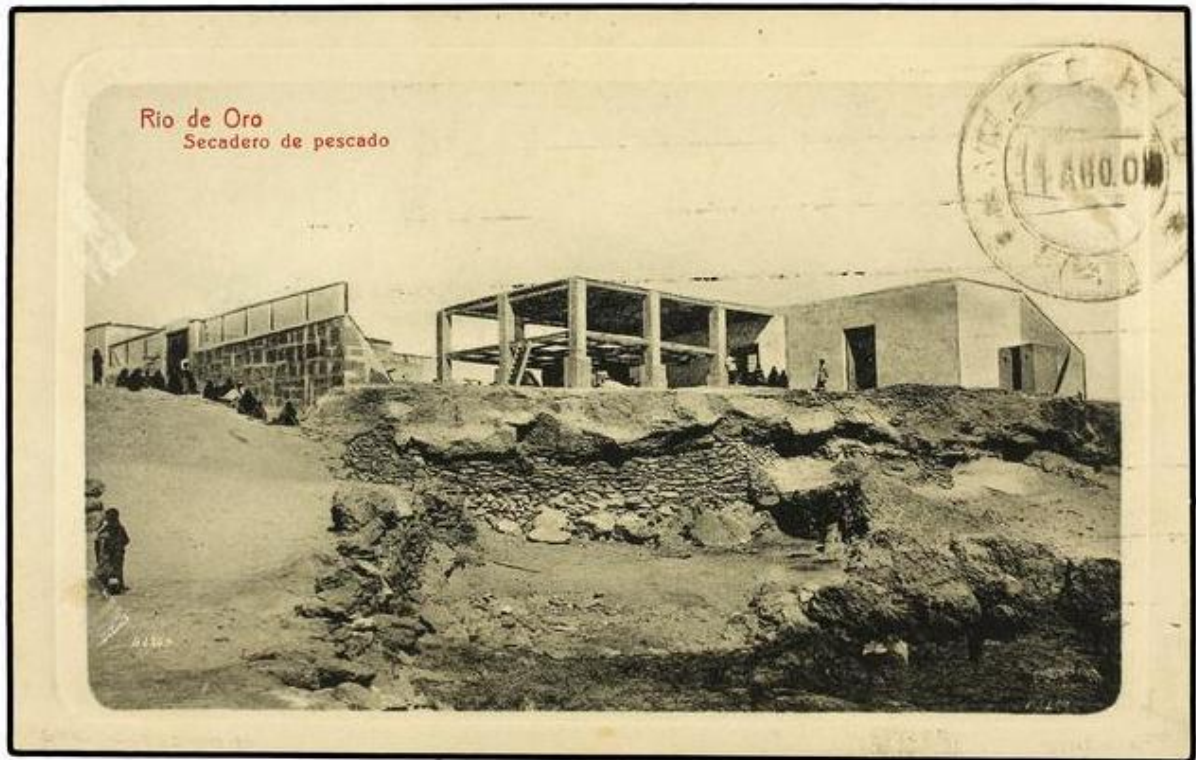
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<http://www.soleryllach.com/subastas/Subasta0448-1/imgLotes/17/A1733g.jpg>



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15c. on 25c (1905 issue): http://www.kelleherauctions.com/lotphotos_SAN/629/271170.jpg

15c. on 25c. (1907 issue): <http://i.colnect.net/images/b/2464/742/1907-enabled-Stamps.jpg>



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10c on 50c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/D-i.jpg>

10c on 75c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/D1-i.jpg>

Varieties:



http://www.kelleherauctions.com/lotphotos_SAN/629/271177.jpg

1908

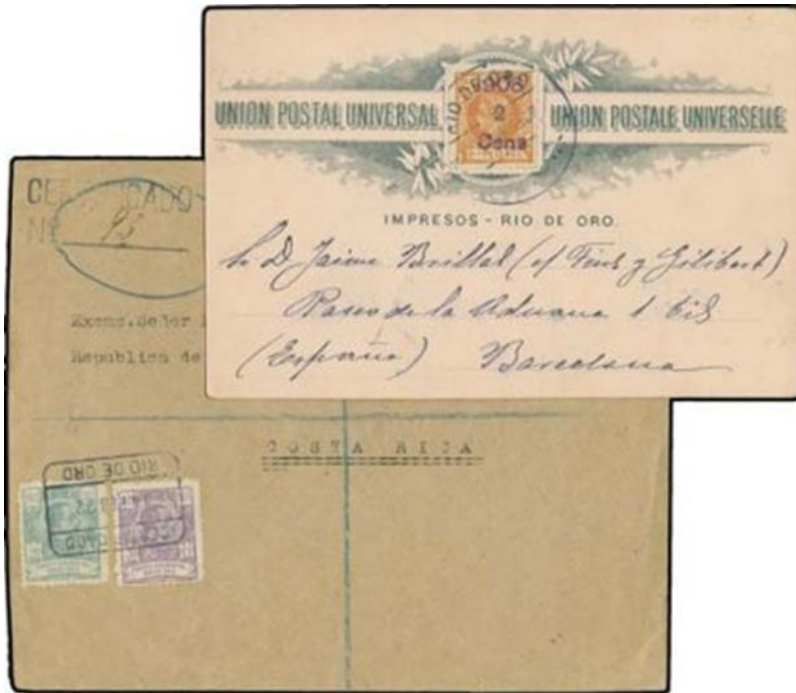


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5c. on 10c. never officially issued; <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/F-i.jpg>

15c on 50c. never officially issued;



<http://stampauctionnetwork.com/ha/3006/2771.jpg>



15c on 75c: 15c. on 75c.: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/G-i.jpg>

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15c: 1 Pst: <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-uM2-JXYLUU0/VGECxFy3aTI/AAAAAAAAWLY/P-Gxe1NNveM/s1600/RiodeOro41.jpg>



<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-m9DF-PQt15w/VGEDWWEWjMI/AAAAAAAAWLg/0rD9AmKe5qU/s1600/RiodeOro40back.jpg>

1909



5c on 50c (carmin overprint): <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/H-i.jpg>

5c on 50c (violet overprint): <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/H1-i.jpg>



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40c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/I8-i.jpg>

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10c.: <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-fz3nPxL Lis/VGEEIBx0MVI/AAAAAAAAWLo/RKN4zsZmdFU/s1600/RiodeOro49.jpg> (with postmark)

50c. on letter: <http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/Wy4AAOSwD0IUa8Fu/s-l1600.jpg>



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Filmar

www.delcampe.net

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1910





10c on 4 Pta: <http://i.colnect.net/images/b/2464/755/1905-enabled-Stamps.jpg>

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Never issued: 5c on 10 Pta (green overprint): <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/L-i.jpg>

*Never issued: 10c: :

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http://www.kelleherauctions.com/lotphotos_SAN/629/271181.jpg



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http://www.kelleherauctions.com/lotphotos_SAN/629/271184.jpg



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1911



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www.delcampe.net

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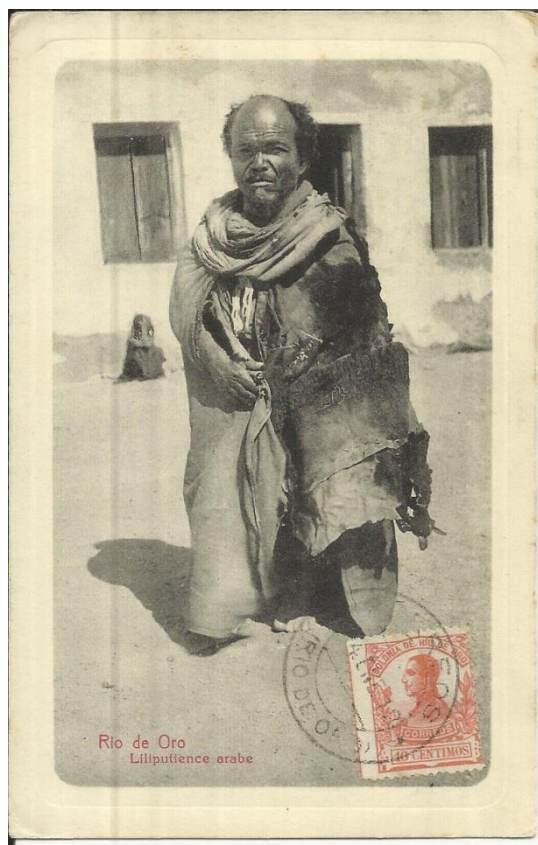
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1912

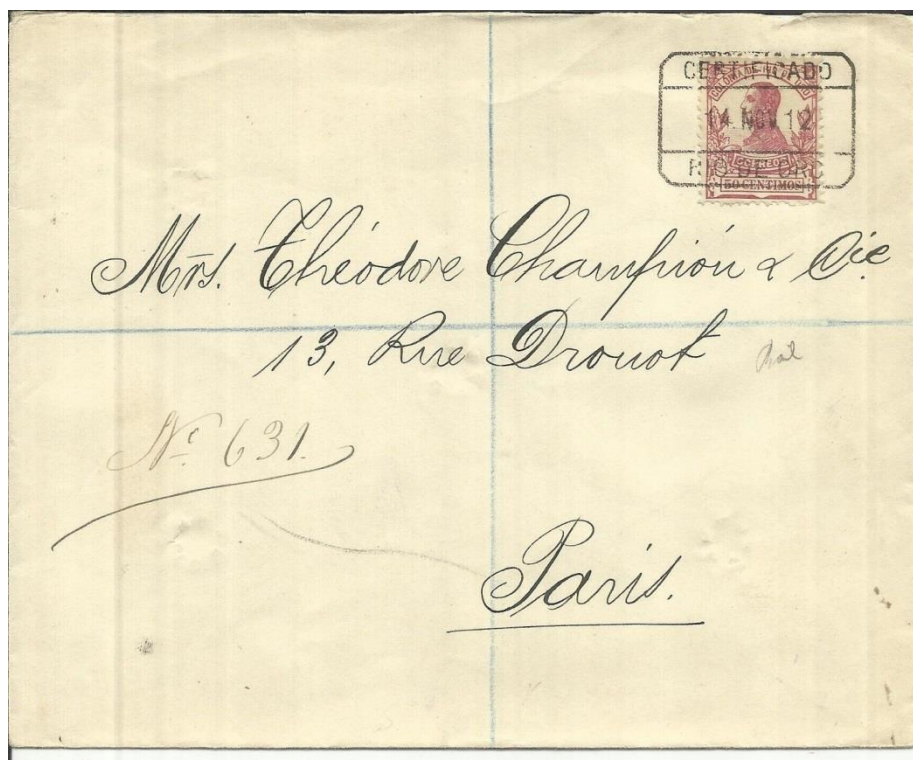


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- 15c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/O4-i.jpg>
- 20c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/O5-i.jpg>
- 25c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/O6-i.jpg>
- 30c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/O7-i.jpg>
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<http://filateliahobby.es/img/p/6812-10328-thickbox.jpg>



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1914



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1917



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Sahara-3 RIO DE ORO and LA AGUERA

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10 Pta: <http://i.colnect.net/images/b/2463/174/1912-enabled-stamps-Alfonso-XIII.jpg>



With double print: <http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/LO4AAOSw0HVWFRqH/s-l1600.jpg>

1919



1c: <http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/3SUAOSwbdpWaECJ/s-l500.jpg>

2c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R1-i.jpg>

5c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R2-i.jpg>

10c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R3-i.jpg>

15c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R4-i.jpg>

20c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R5-i.jpg>

25c: <http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/MysAAOSwwE5WaEI6/s-l500.jpg>

30c: <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-dcm82ob1CZ4/VGEFSInPaOI/AAAAAAAAWMA/Ga9Y2bPZPVE/s1600/RiodeOro121.jpg>

40c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R8-i.jpg>

50c: http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-DgqLoKGeTvA/VGEBzqo_3II/AAAAAAAAWLE/b5ak8LLn-Ug/s1600/RiodeOro123.jpg

1 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R10-i.jpg>

4 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R11-i.jpg>

10 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/R12-i.jpg>



<http://filateliahobby.es/img/p/5871-8672-thickbox.jpg>



ANTIGUA TARJETA POSTAL SÁHARA ESPAÑOL SANTA CRUZ DE MAR PEQUEÑA MARRUECOS; 1919;
<http://cloud2.todocoleccion.net/postales-ex-colonias-protectorado/tc/2015/09/13/10/51196688.jpg>

1920



- 1c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S-i.jpg>
- 2c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S1-i.jpg>
- 5c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S2-i.jpg>
- 10c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S3-i.jpg>
- 15c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S4-i.jpg>
- 20c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S5-i.jpg>
- 25c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S6-i.jpg>
- 30c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S7-i.jpg>
- 40c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S8-i.jpg>
- 50c: <http://cloud1.todocoleccion.net/sellos-colonia-espanola-africa/tc/2015/09/09/20/51145305.jpg>
- 1 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S10-i.jpg>
- 4 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S11-i.jpg>
- 10 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/S12-i.jpg>

1922



“As Rio de Oro was nearing the end of autonomy as a separate stamp issuing colony, a 13 stamp issue was released in 1922 with "Western Sahara" included on the identification tablet.”

<http://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.nl/2015/04/ClassicalStampsOfRiodeOro.html>

1c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T-i.jpg>

2c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T1-i.jpg>

5c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T2-i.jpg>

10c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T3-i.jpg>

15c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T4-i.jpg>

20c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T5-i.jpg>

25c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T6-i.jpg>

30c: <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-1Jqa8nAzWw/VGEFj27mall/AAAAAAWMI/yrTN7rISjkw/s1600/RiodeOro147.jpg>

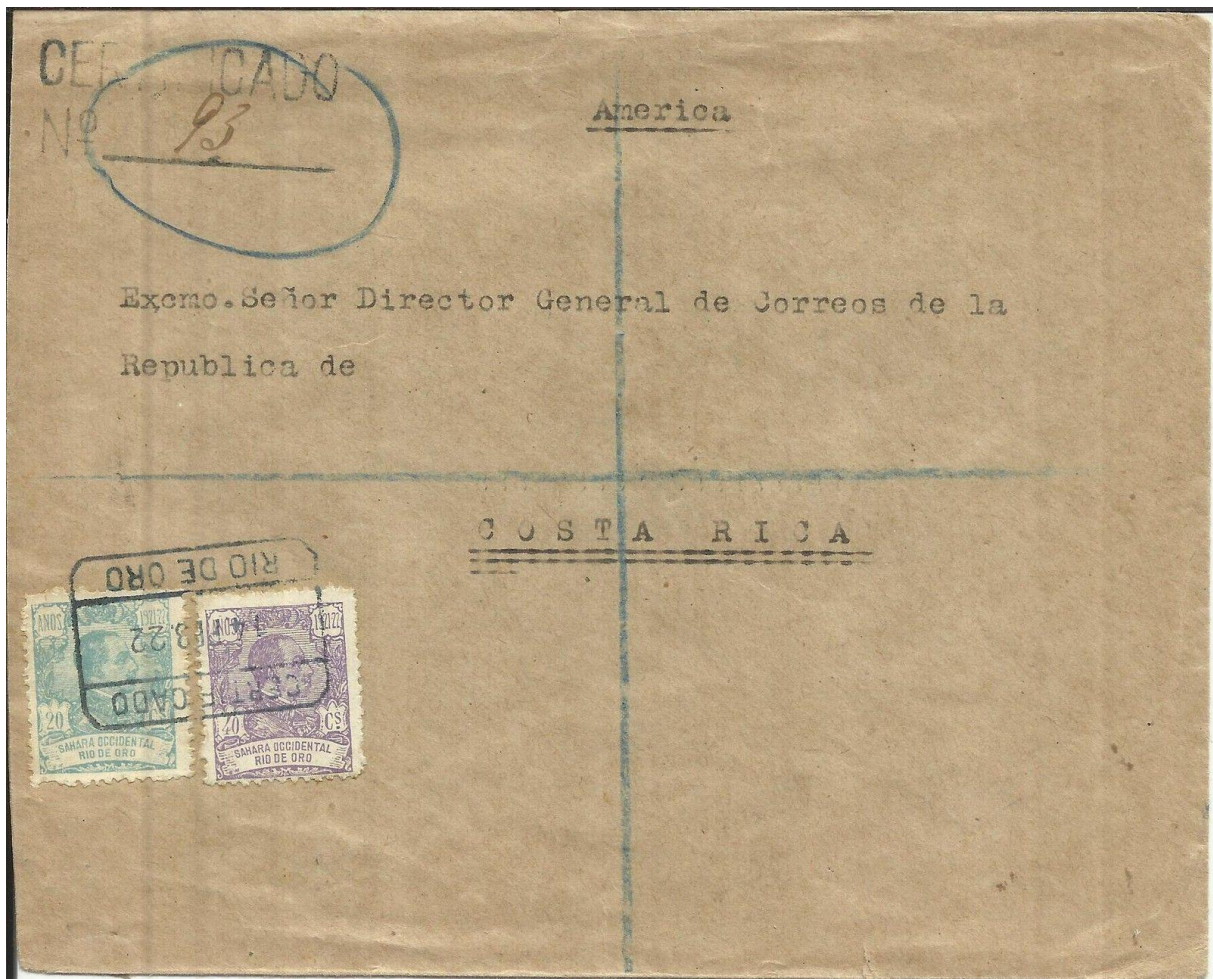
40c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T8-i.jpg>

50c: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T9-i.jpg>

1 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T10-i.jpg>

4 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T11-i.jpg>

10 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Rio-de-Oro/Postage-stamps/T12-i.jpg>



<http://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/EooAAOSwg3FUa8Eo/s-l1600.jpg>

In 1924, the colony was absorbed into Spanish Western Sahara, and Rio de Oro's stamp production ceased.

<http://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.nl/2015/04/ClassicalStampsofRiodeOro.html>

La Agüera



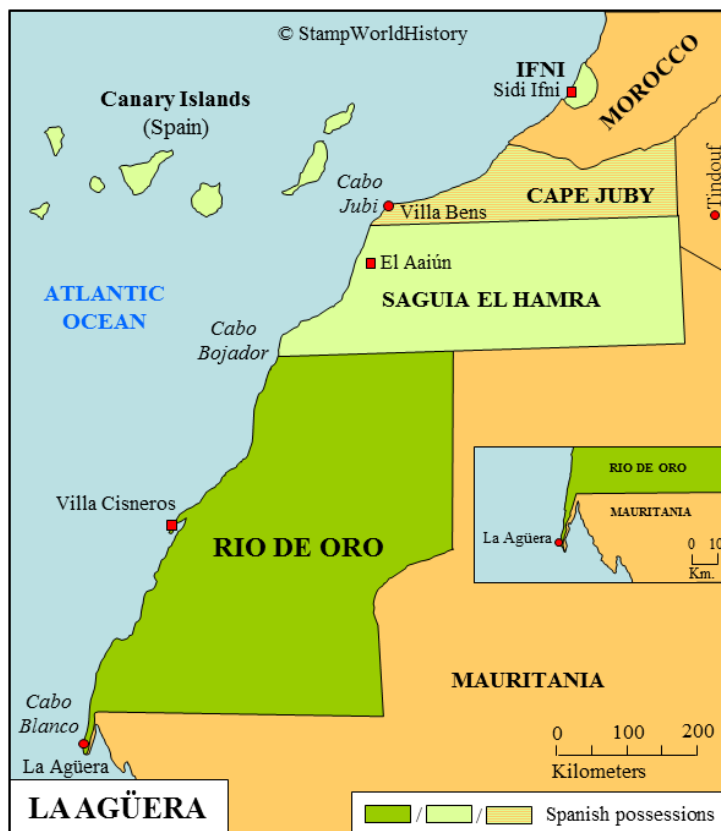
<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Spain-Flag-1-150x100.gif>

"In June 1920, Spain issued postage stamps of its existing colony Río de Oro overprinted "LA AGÜERA", and followed those up in 1922 with a series portraying King Alfonso XIII and inscribed "SAHARA OCCIDENTAL / LA AGÜERA". These were superseded in 1924 by stamps of Spanish Sahara, as La Güera [sic] was incorporated to the Spanish colony of Río de Oro".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_La_Ag%C3%BCera

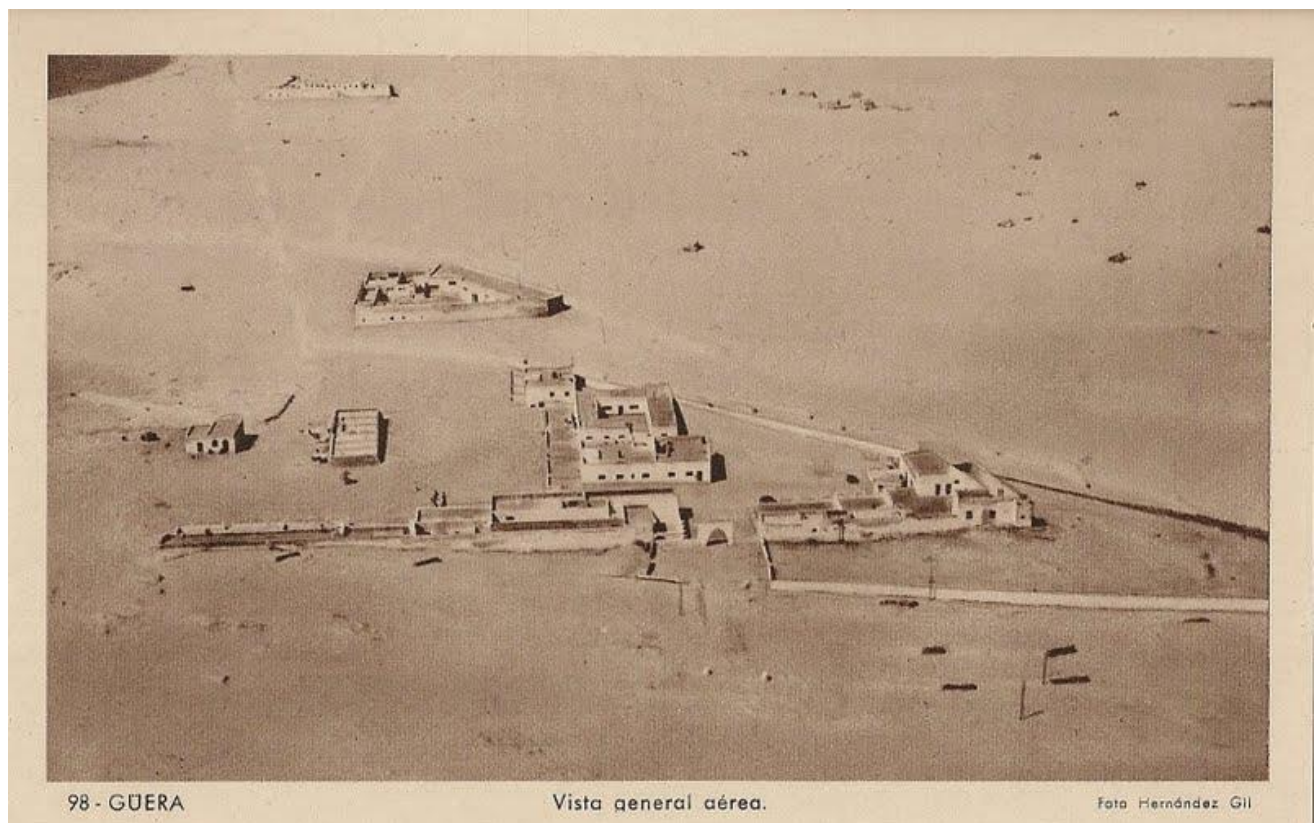
"La Aguera (alternatively Lagouira or La Gouera; Arabic: الكويرة) was a small settlement located off of the western tip of Africa near Morocco and Mauritania. Spain claimed it as a colonial territory from 1920 to 1924, using the area as a landing strip for trans-Atlantic flights. La Aguera has been all but completely abandoned in recent years. The encroaching desert sand has covered many of the buildings and roadways. Only a few native fishermen are in the region now".

<http://www.stampsofdistinction.com/2008/03/stamp-issuers-la-aquera.html>



<http://www.stampworldhistory.com/country-profiles-2/africa/la-aguera/>

“La Agüera is located in northern Africa. La Agüera is part of the Spanish protectorate, later colony of Rio de Oro. The Spanish have claimed the territory between Cabo Blanco and Cabo Bojador as a Spanish protectorate in 1884. A claim going back to 15th century treaties between Spain and Portugal. The Spanish claim is awarded at the 1885 Berlin conference where the colonial powers divide their respective spheres of influence in Africa. Thus in 1885 the Spanish formally establish the protectorate of Rio de Oro. Rio de Oro is proclaimed a Spanish colony in 1900. The borders with French Mauritania are agreed upon in 1900 – the border near La Agüera running from north to south dividing the peninsula on which La Agüera is located. Spanish control over Rio de Oro is at first only nominal and de facto limited to the capital of Villa Cisneros. From the 1920's the Spanish make an effort to bring the territory under effective colonial rule. In the very south La Agüera is founded in 1920 that will initially be administered as a separate colony – although de jure part of Rio de Oro. A fort is built and an airstrip is laid out. A factory is set up to process the fish caught locally. In 1924 La Agüera is integrated in Rio de Oro and also in 1924 with Rio de Oro La Agüera becomes part of Spanish Sahara. Currently La Agüera – nowadays called La Güera or Güera- is an all but deserted town.” <http://www.stampworldhistory.com/country-profiles-2/africa/la-aguera/>



http://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-C3frzjhSR4o/TMFhaLP_RI/AAAAAAAAEI8/sLlyuUfVG9Q/s800/98.jpg

1921 Issue: King Alfonso XIII of Spain - Not Issued Rio de Oro Postage Stamps Overprinted "LA AGÜERA"



1 C, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 50c : <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Agüera,-La/Postage-stamps>,

15c: <http://media.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Agüera,-La/Postage-stamps/A4-s.jpg>

40c: http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_XlgCcLu9TSM/U1a7T82_7hI/AAAAAAATzk/ua3rfmY8RKM/s1600/imgAgüera9.jpg

1, 4, 10 Ptas: http://www.kelleherauctions.com/lotphotos_SAN/629/271167.jpg

10 Pts: http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_r7sReQYd6vU/R9IB1FV4I/AAAAAAAANw/jFjs_RYDZdc/s400/la_agüera_13.jpg



http://images-01.delcampe-static.net/img_large/auction/000/247/708/203_001.jpg



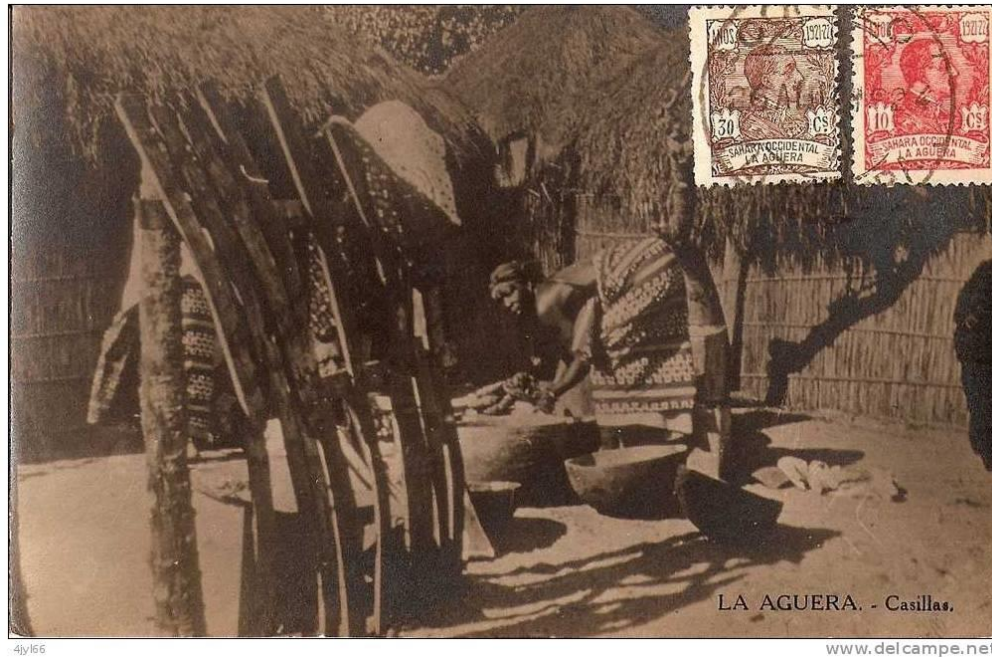
http://www.filateliatalavera.com/images/product/1/medium/pm_1_1_20244.jpg

1923 issue: 1923 King Alfonso XIII of Spain - Inscription "SAHARA OCCIDENTAL - LA AGUERA", Control Numbers on Back Side



1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 1Pta, 4 Pta: <http://www.stampworld.com/media/catalogue/Aguera,-La/Postage-stamps>,

10 Pta: http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_r7sReQYd6vU/RV9Ih1FV5I/AAAAAAAAAN4/QLOZo5W9ccc/s400/la_aguera_26.jpg



http://images.delcampe.com/img_large/auction/000/065/806/448_001.jpg?v=1



"The Fort now abandoned, La Aguera lives on in stamp history", <http://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.nl/2011/02/aguera.html>

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-9d6R3-7GYaw/TkA8MxHHpnl/AAAAAAAAAx4/TcZQvX1jLUA/s320/fuerte_aguera.revista.jpg



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/af/Laguera_view.jpg

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_G%C3%BCera#/media/File:Laguera_view.jpg