The Remitroot Standard

Cartera Tomás, the Alquerian Minister of Finance followed in the footsteps of many before him by blindly printing money. The currency of the new Republic of Alqueria is the Raro. Named after the hero of Alqueria, El Raro. It was El Raro who, during the Spanish War of Independence looted a French baggage column, while no-one was looking that is. Financial institutions fixed the Euro-Raro exchange rate as 1 billion Raros to 1.25 Euros. This was calculated by simply dividing the amount of money in circulation by the estimated value of the fabric of Alqueria, its houses, land and public buildings etc. Soddingtons S.A. were delighted with the situation. They not only manufacture an extremely popular and iconic board game but also print the Alquerian currency. Unfortunately they are also paid with the Alquerian currency.

Alquerian exports prior to the sealing of the border consisted of an inferior olive oil and Remitroot. In their rush to alienate Alqueria the Remitroot issue was totally forgotten. Politicians in Madrid celebrated the solution to the Alquerian problem but seemed surprised that their Remitroot supply dried up. A common fault of politicians from all nations, the inability to join the dots and foresee the consequences of their actions.

The price of Remitroot Liquor spiralled, changing hands for 500 Euros a bottle in the backstreets of Granada. Antonio Poyato smuggled out the liquor on a raft camouflaged as the Almería and District Synchronised Swimming Team. He paddled down the Río Verde passed the blockade and handed over his contraband to a team of motorcycle riders. These fearless knights of the road sitting astride their high-powered machines can outrun anything the Guardia Civil have in their stables. The exploits of these individuals have become legend as they race through the Andalucían night carrying their precious load. A clandestine distribution network then takes over, delivering in shadows to those with the necessary funds.

Poyato soon became the wealthiest Alquerian and Remitroot the most sought after liquid commodity in western Europe. Imports into Alqueria began to be paid for in Remitroot Liquor as the currency became more and more worthless.
Remitroot became the *de facto* currency of Alqueria.

At the bimonthly meeting of the IMF, the world bankers, most of whom have a liking for distilled Remitroot juice agreed to the re-floating of the Raro. Rodriquez's run-down olive mill was on borrowed time and with nothing else of intrinsic value in the village there was only one solution. Remitroot Liquor offered the only viable standard for the ailing Alquerian economy.

The Raro, the only currency backed by an alcoholic aphrodisiac which when pulped can be used to lag water pipes.